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Talks begin to unify Germany

Poland to take part when borders discussed

BONN, March 14, (Agencies): World War Two's 'big four' victors and the two Germanys that emerged from the ruins of the Third Reich met here today at the start of talks on creating a united and peaceful German state.

Senior officials from East and West Germany, once arch rivals in the cold war, sat side-by-side at a round table in Bonn's

Foreign Ministry with delegations from the United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France.

The officials, who aim to plot out the military future of a United Germany and its former capital Berlin, declined to answer questions from journalists hovering around the table.

"We're just at the beginning of our talks," said Bertrand Dufourcq, head of the French delegation.



West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher (left) talks to leaders of the French delegation political director Bertrand Dufourcq (centre) and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoli Adamtschin (right) in Bonn. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israeli leaders woo small parties

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 14, (Reuters): Rival leaders of Israel's collapsed coalition government wooed religious politicians in a battle for power today with the future of peace talks with Palestinians in the balance.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir faces a non-confidence motion in the Knesset — Parliament — tomorrow that would bring defeat to his rightist Likud Party.

Likud shared power with the leftist Labour Party headed by Vice-Premier Shimon Peres for the past 13 months until Shamir sacked Peres as finance minister yesterday, prompting a walkout by the other Labour ministers in the national unity cabinet.

The long-simmering crisis came to a head when Shamir refused Labour demands to accept US proposals for the first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Shamir and Peres both courted bearded rabbis in black coats who want government cash for religious schools and public observance of Jewish law in return for their support.

Four small religious parties with 18 swing votes in the 120-seat legislature are essential for a win by either Likud or Labour. The winner hopes to set up a government without his political foe.

The two leaders blamed each other for the collapse of the coalition. An opinion poll in Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's largest selling newspaper, said both were at fault.

"There won't be peace so long as Shamir heads this government," Peres told Israeli radio.

(Continued on Page 2)



Sole candidate

The Soviet Communist Party yesterday nominated its leader Mikhail Gorbachev to run for executive president, the official Tass news agency said.

A number of deputies, including members of the conservative bloc "Soyuz," or union, also nominated Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin for the presidency, but both withdrew their candidacy. (See Page 6)

Mongolian leader: A trade union leader Gomboshaivyn Otshirbat was elected general secretary of Mongolia's ruling Communist Party on Wednesday at a stormy meeting after the old Politburo resigned. East Germany's ADN news agency reported. (Reuters)

Bush-Thatcher meet: President Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher have agreed to meet in Bermuda on April 13 to discuss a wide range of issues related to developments in Europe and NATO, a spokesman announced. (UPI)

Young mother: A nine-year-old Turkish girl has given birth to a healthy baby boy and both children are doing well, the young mother's doctor said. (Reuters)

Plan rejected: Syria and Iraq have rejected a Turkish plan dealing with the use of water from two major rivers in the area, Turkish Foreign Ministry sources said. (Reuters)

Shiite battles: Shiite battles swept Muslim Beirut's southern suburbs on Wednesday while across the religious divide in battered East Beirut, Christians enjoyed a respite from six weeks of all-out war.

Renegade Gen. Michel Aoun, meanwhile, said he was prepared to negotiate a settlement. (Reuters)



Some 100 student activists demonstrate outside US embassy in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Filipino interest in bases first' Cory will survive, says Ramos

MANILA, March 14, (Agencies): Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos acknowledged the possibility today of another coup attempt against President Corason Aquino but expressed confidence she would crush it and complete her term.

"I am very confident that the Aquino government will last through its six-year term," Ramos said when asked in a television interview last night about threats by mutineers to oust her. A transcript of the interview was released today.

"We do not discount the possibility (of another coup attempt)," Ramos said, but added the capability of the mutineers was "much, much less than what they had" when they staged the Dec 1-9 uprising.

He said a great number of people have withdrawn support for cashiered Army Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan who led the December insurrection, the sixth in

Aquino's four years as President.

Ramos recalled threats by rebel soldiers to disrupt a series of events — the Philippine military academy graduation, a major international gathering, local elections in the south and the fourth anniversary of the people power revolution — over the past month.

Aquino yesterday rejected a communist guerrilla proposal for a ceasefire in the 21-year leftist revolt if she agreed to dismantle vital US military bases in the Philippines.

Senator Wigberto Tanada urged Aquino on Monday to heed the proposal by the National Democratic Front, the political wing of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, for a unilateral truce on condition Aquino would not renew US basing rights.

"The NDF's interests do not necessarily coincide with those of our people," Aquino said in a statement.



Scratching for a penny

A monkey scratches the forehead of its handler during a break in their performance at a Hong Kong amusement park. The monkey dressed in traditional costume, performed a Chinese opera. (Reuters wirephoto)

Saddam won't intervene 'now' Iraq rejects mercy visit

LONDON, March 14, (Agencies): Iraq has rejected a request by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd to visit Baghdad to appeal for the life of a London-based journalist sentenced to death for spying, the government said today.

Iraq has also warned that President Saddam Hussein won't intervene in the case while under pressure.

Britain has been waging a diplomatic and media campaign seeking clemency for Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian-born reporter for the British weekly, the Observer.

A foreign office spokesman said Hurd had asked Britain's ambassador to Iraq to arrange a

meeting with President Saddam Hussein to discuss the plight of Bazoft and a British nurse sentenced to 19 years in prison for alleged complicity.

Daphne Parish, 52, was charged with driving Bazoft to Iraq's Al Iskandaria military complex last September where he was arrested while investigating reports of an explosion at the site.

Iraq has not yet set a date for the execution.

Hurd wanted to appeal directly to Hussein on his way home from Oman where European Economic Community foreign ministers and the Gulf Cooperation Council will meet this weekend.

The Foreign Office announced that the Iraqi government had said in a letter yesterday that "this would not be the right time for a visit."

"It was made clear that the Iraqi government did not feel able to discuss these cases in the present atmosphere," said the spokesman.

Iraqi embassy spokesman Wajdi Mardan said in London today that Iraq considered a visit by Hurd would be "rather inconvenient in view of the probability that this visit could be seen as part of the current media campaign, which is presumably intended to bring pressure on the Iraqi government."

US mine sweepers leave Gulf

MANAMA, March 14, (API): The three last US mine sweepers that have been operating in Gulf waters since the height of the Iraq-Iran war were pulled out this week in view of a reduced mine threat, US naval sources said today.

The sources would not give the exact itinerary for the USS Enhance, USS Esteem and USS Conquest, which are headed for their home ports on the US west coast.

But they said the vessels would need a minimum of 40 days to reach homeport.

The three 720-ton, wooden-hulled vessels were loaded aboard a contracted Dutch heavy-lift ship, Super Servant III, according to the sources.

DAY BY DAY

INSTEAD of a ban on certain news items about the government, particularly those which leak out and then float around as rumours, the government should allow its publication and then publish a rejoinder through the local media.

A ban on the local news media on certain stories, when other news media are using them, is certainly a question of short-sightedness. Does the government believe that such news won't reach?

It is preferable that certain news items are allowed in print, and a government spokesman could answer any questions about any information gathered by newspapers.

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State of sea: Moderate

High water: 2:11 am, 2:00 pm

Low water: 8:15 am, 8:48 pm

Sunrise: 5:58 am

Sunset: 5:56 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 24°C 75°F

Ahmad: 22°C 72°F

Falaka: 23°C 73°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 13°C 55°F

Ahmad: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 16°C 61°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 24°C 75°F

Ahmad: 21°C 70°F

Falaka: 21°C 70°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 85 per cent

Ahmad: 84 per cent

Falaka: 77 per cent

INTERNATIONAL



Mitterrand (left) dedicates a photograph showing West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Mitterrand under the watchful eyes of two school children. (Reuters wirephoto)

One immigrant dead

Mitterrand hits at race hatred

PARIS, March 14, (Agencies): French President François Mitterrand spoke out against racist hatred yesterday after frightening attacks on immigrant youths left one dead, one in an irreversible coma and a third paralysed.

"So can one now kill a person simply because he is a foreigner or comes from a different background?" Mitterrand asked, echoing warnings from senior politicians and churchmen.

The Moroccan embassy in Paris lodged a formal protest yesterday after three youths of Moroccan origin were victims of separate weekend attacks in two quiet country towns.

Their alleged assailants were white Frenchmen now in custody.

Mitterrand, speaking during a provincial trip, said the worst crimes were motivated by instinctive hatred.

"When I see what happened... every week could be marked by fresh crimes of stupidity, brutality and sheer intolerance," he said.

"I fear for France and my co-citizens because this was pure savagery," said Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Roman

Catholic archbishop of Paris. Civilisation was at risk when people hunted others like wild game, he said.

Prime Minister Michel Rocard said the attacks showed how intolerance and racism inevitably led.

Rocard's Socialist Party went further by implicitly accusing the anti-immigrant National Front.

"We have had enough of the hatred and venom which some people have made their electoral stock-in-trade," Georges Morin, the Socialist Party representative for North African immigrants, said in a statement.

But Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front leader who is already in trouble for anti-Jewish remarks, contended that the violence merely confirmed his party's policies, which include repatriation for many of the North African immigrants.

A government study in 1982 estimated that more than 1.2 million Algerians, Moroccans and Tunisians lived in France but the figures did not include large numbers of children of North African parents who are full French citizens because they were born in France.

Strike shuts down shops in Nepal

KATHMANDU, March 14, (UPI): Shops and schools in Kathmandu and at least seven other towns were shut down today as opposition forces seeking multi-party democracy staged a third general nation-wide strike, residents and opposition sources said.

There were also scattered reports of stone-throwing in the capital city, including one incident in which two students at an engineering school were severely beaten after a passing bus was hit by rocks, witnesses said.

The strike was the third time since Feb 18 that the outlawed Nepali Congress

Party and affiliated leftist groups organised strikes to support the nation-wide movement for lifting a 29-year ban on political parties.

"Our movement will continue until we achieve our goal on a multi-party system and all political prisoners detained during and before the movement are released," said Siddhi Lal Singh, a member of the politburo of the banned Nepal Communist Party.

A government official said six people were arrested during Wednesday's clashes, while opposition sources put the number at 14.

At least 13 people have been killed in violence and hundreds have been arrested since Feb 18, when the coalition of outlawed political parties began waging its campaign of strikes and demonstrations.

Witnesses said shops were shuttered in downtown Kathmandu and in the capital's satellite towns of Patan and Bhaktapur, attendance was near zero at educational institutions and operators said taxi and bus services between the three towns were running below normal levels.

The general strike also affected at least five other towns in eastern and central

Nepal, residents and opposition sources said by telephone.

Residents in the southern Nepal town of Narayanghat said shops were all closed and reports from the resort town of Pokhara, where King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya currently are on an inspection tour of development projects, said shops there also were shuttered.

The strike also affected the town of Janakpur in southern Nepal and Biratnagar, the nation's largest industrial centre, located in the southeastern section of the country, residents said.

Women demo in Srinagar

India Parliament focus on Kashmir situation

SRINAGAR, March 14, (Agencies): Veiled Muslim women defied troops, teargas and truncheons today to demonstrate against Indian rule in Srinagar, centre of a separatist uprising in Jammu and Kashmir state.

Sources in the paramilitary police said at least seven women were injured in the demonstration, the latest in a seven-week-old uprising in support of militant demands for Kashmir's independence or merger with neighbouring Pakistan.

Angry crowds took to the streets in protest at the clashes and the authorities sent police jeeps round the city of 800,000 people to announce that curfew, imposed with only brief daily breaks for much of the past few weeks, was back in force.

Alleging that women had been molested during house-to-house searches by security forces in Srinagar last week, the women demonstrators had taken advantage of a break in curfew to head for an office of the United Nations military observer group.

Najib: I offered Tanai my chair

KABUL, March 14, (AP): Afghan President Najib said that two days before last week's attack on his government, he offered the presidency to the defence minister who led the coup attempt.

"I had heard rumours that he wanted something, so I said, 'take the presidency. It is yours if you think you can rule,'" Najib said in a speech Sunday to tribal elders from Pakhtia province.

An Afghan government official provided an English translation of the speech, given in Pushtu, today.

Gen. Shab Nawaz Tanai refused the post and pledged loyalty to Najib, the president said.

"Two days later he was bombing me," Najib said.

Tanai, escaped after the attempt. In a statement apparently released yesterday by Tanai in neighbouring Pakistan, he said he was planning to unite with the Afghan rebels to topple Najib, president since 1986.

It is apparently an alliance of convenience, because Tanai has long advocated a harsh stance against the rebels.

Sunday's speech was seen as an attempt by the president to nullify Tanai's influence among the tribes of the southeastern province.

Throughout the speech, Najib referred to the defence minister by his first name, an insult to Afghans, Najib uses one name.

Both Tanai and Najib were leaders in the 1978 coup that first brought the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan to power. But while Najib has in recent years sought to distance himself from communism, Tanai has a reputation as a hardliner.

Tanai has been linked to three of five known coup attempts against Najib. Najib has tried to placate some foes within the party by giving them positions of power.

Najib told the elders he feared that Tanai would unite with rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a radical fundamentalist, to take the strategic city of Khost, which is near Tanai's home village.

Tanai is known as a shrewd commander and is generally considered responsible for Afghanistan's successful defence of Jalalabad, a strategic city in eastern Afghanistan, against rebel attacks following the Soviet withdrawal.

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Parliament apologises

BUDAPEST, March 14, (Reuters): In its final act before free elections, Hungary's parliament apologised to the nation for communist injustice today and rehabilitated hundreds of thousands of victims of hardline rule.

The outgoing national assembly, at an emotional sitting capped by the singing of anthems, voted overwhelmingly to annual politically-motivated sentences meted out from 1945 to 1963.

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Seoul protest

An American military policeman blocking about a dozen South Korean students from entering the compound of the US military command in Seoul. The protesters were all taken away by South Korean police after staging a 10-minute sit-in inside the compound later, demanding an end to the current South Korean-US joint military exercises which they said impeded the South's unity with communist North Korea. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Hungarian party wants to quit Warsaw Pact

BUDAPEST, March 14, (Reuters): Hungary's front-running opposition party said yesterday it would ask parliament to annul the country's Warsaw Pact membership after free parliamentary elections.

János Kis, leader of the Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD), said the party believed that a statement of withdrawal from the Soviet-led pact, made during a failed 1956 uprising, remained valid.

"The AFD will take steps in the new parliament

to have the... statement enacted as a law," he told a news conference.

Kis, 46, is regarded as a possible candidate for prime minister after parliamentary elections on March 25 and April 8, Hungary's first free national elections since 1945.

An opinion poll published by the Gallup organisation on Monday identified the Western-oriented AFD as Hungary's most popular party, with 23.1 per cent support against 21.5 for the centre-right

opposition Hungarian Democratic Forum.

The ruling Socialist Party, founded last October as a successor to the Communist Party which took power in the late 1940s, trailed far behind with 8.7 per cent.

The AFD also criticised last weekend's accord between Hungary and the Soviet Union for the full withdrawal of 50,000 Soviet troops from Hungary by June 30, 1991. The first soldiers left on Monday.

Tanzania PM gets job back

DAR ES SALAM, March 14, (UPI): President Ali Hassan Mwinyi today reappointed Joseph Warioba as his prime minister, just two days after he fired him and all 25 other Tanzanian cabinet ministers.

A terse announcement of the appointment on official Tanzanian radio gave no additional details, but said Mwinyi would name the rest of his new cabinet tomorrow.

Warioba, 49, has been prime minister and first vice-president of Tanzania since Mwinyi took office in 1985. He is known for his close links with the Tanzanian Army, the with former president Julius Nyerere, who is now chairman of the country's Chama Cha Mapinduzi Socialist Party and still Tanzania's leading statesman.

Warioba and Nyerere both hail from the Mara district of Tanzania, near Lake Victoria. Warioba is seen in some quarters as Nyerere's preferred candidate at forthcoming presidential elections in October this year.

His reappointment crushed speculation that he might be replaced by former foreign minister Benjamin Mkapa.

Mwinyi's surprise Monday dismissal of his entire cabinet pending re-selection was widely linked to a drive to weed out corruption in the Tanzanian government.

Last month Nyerere, who ran Tanzania for nearly 25 years on one-party socialist lines, called for the CCM Party to update its ideas, eliminate bureaucracy and corruption, and discuss the possibility of a multi-party political system.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

LONDON: The leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party, Neil Kinnock, with libel damages on Tuesday over newspaper articles accusing him of queue-jumping to arrange a family holiday on the Greek island of Corfu.

A London court ordered the Sun and The News of the World newspapers to pay "very substantial" damages to Kinnock for articles published three years ago alleging that he abused his political position to secure the holiday.

The News of the World said Kinnock claimed precedence over two other couples booked into the apartments where his family was stayed and a Sun commentary "castigated Mr Kinnock for pulling rank and jumping the queue."

KINSHASA, Zaire: A 10-foot (3-metre) long, 132-pound (60-kilogramme) ivory tusk believed to be the world's largest has been stolen from a Zairean national park, a police source says.

The police official said Tuesday there are no clues in the theft of the tusk, which was kept in a science centre at Kabani-Binga National Park, near the eastern border with Rwanda.

He spoke on condition of anonymity and declined to give other details, such as when the tusk was stolen. (AP)

CHICAGO: Bruce Bettelheim, a psychologist and author who studied under Sigmund Freud and gained fame for his work with emotionally disturbed children, has killed himself in a Maryland nursing home, a medical examiner said. He was 86.

Maryland's chief medical examiner, Dr John E. Smialek, said one of his deputies who examined Bettelheim had determined the cause of Tuesday's death was suicidal asphyxiation.

Smialek declined to give details. Bettelheim lived at the Charter House Nursing Home in Silver Spring, Maryland. A secretary who did not give her name referred calls Tuesday night to Bettelheim's family, but declined to provide a telephone number. (AP)



Mrs Quayle gesture

Marilyn Quayle, wife of US Vice-President Dan Quayle, holds a baby during her visit to Pilar, some 250 miles south of Asuncion, Paraguay, where some 700 families were left homeless by flooding. Mrs Quayle said that the US would send humanitarian aid to help these families. (Reuters wirephoto)

ZURICH: A Van Gogh oil painting worth about \$1.7 million has been stolen from a Zurich customs depot, police said on Tuesday.

The theft was discovered last week when a prospective buyer wanted to see the picture.

Wheatfield with Sheaves, painted in 1888 by the Dutch artist in Arles, France.

Police said there were no clues to the theft. (Reuters)



Appeal to Congress

The star of the television series "Starsky and Hutch" pleaded with Congress yesterday to help find a cure for AIDS, which killed his seven-year-old daughter and threatens to kill his wife and son.

Actor Paul Michael Gleason and his wife, Elizabeth, (shown together above) who received the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome virus in 1981 from a contaminated blood transfusion she was given during the birth of her daughter Ariel, pleaded for more federal funding for research into the killer disease.

(Reuters wirephoto)

Murder Every 46 minutes

CAPE TOWN, March 14, (UPI): More than 11,000 people were murdered in South Africa last year, or one every 46 minutes, law and order Minister Adrian Vlok told parliament yesterday.

Vlok, in an annual review of crime statistics, also reported 128,587 serious assaults, 58,298 auto thefts, 50,636 robberies, 20,458 rapes, or one every 26 minutes, and 187,946 housebreakings in 1989.

The minister responsible for police affairs blamed unemployment, poor socio-economic conditions and an understaffed police force for the high crime rate but pledged, "we will do everything in our power to try and change the situation."

EDGEMONT, Massachusetts: Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis ended a 10-year dispute with a group of Wampanoag Indians by agreeing to give them a plot of land and \$100,000 in exchange for a tiny beachfront site.

The case pitted Mrs Onassis' desire for privacy against the Indians' belief that they should retain control of tribal lands on Martha's Vineyard, including 1.5 acres (0.8 hectares) owned primarily by the Wampanoags that is surrounded by Onassis' estate on the island. (AP)

LONDON: Simon Jenkins, a columnist and Britain's journalist of the year last year, was named Editor of the Times newspaper on Tuesday.

The Times said Jenkins, who for the past four years has been a columnist on its sister paper the Sunday Times, would succeed Charles Wilson who has held the post since 1985.

Jenkins, 47, has also been editor of London's Evening Standard and political editor of the Economist magazine.

Wilson, a hard-nosed Scotsman who took over from Charles Douglas-Home, becomes international development director of News International which publishes the Times and the Sunday Times. (AP)

Shoshone woman's life-long mission to expose massacre

CLEARFIELD, Utah, March 14, (AP): Mae Timbimboe Parry will never forget nights as a child at her grandfather's feet. While winter winds moaned outside, she listened in horrified fascination as he spoke of the Bear River massacre.

Six decades later, Parry, the 70-year-old tribal secretary to the northwestern Shoshone, traces her life-long mission to reveal the truth about the army's slaughter of as many as 400 Indians in 1863 to the hours spent listening to Yeager Timbimboe, one of the few survivors.

"He was the best story teller. He believed in passing his stories on to his grandchildren, and he expected them to memorize all of them. He'd tell them over and over and over again," Parry said.

"We sat on the floor and grandpa sat on the chair. Every few minutes he would ask, 'awake? Are you awake?'" she recalled.

"And we would say yes. If one of us fell asleep, grandpa would just get up and leave. So we stayed awake. He wanted us to know who we were and where we came from."

Yeager, 12 when the soldiers attacked, survived and lay still in the blood-spattered snow until a soldier realized he was alive. The soldier let him live.

"He must have been spared for this purpose. If my grandfather had died, it (the truth) may have been lost," said Parry, who has passed Yeager's stories on to her five children and more than a dozen grandchildren.

The account of the attack by the man who launched it, Col Patrick Connor, was one of pitched battle and classic military

envelopment against well-armed and entrenched warriors, a view reflected — to the abiding anger of the northwestern Shoshone — on a historical marker commemorating the "Battle of Bear River."

In the years after she first heard the Bear River stories, Parry became a repository for the tribe's oral history on the massacre. Eventually, she blended her grandfather's stories with others in what is considered by historians to be an authoritative 1976 monograph on file at the Utah state historical society in Salt Lake City.

Women face twice the risk

Obesity begins between 25-34

CHICAGO, March 14, (AP): People are most likely to get fat between ages 25 and 34, and women face twice the risk, doctors say in a decade-long study of nearly 10,000 adults.

The study, which monitored the weights of people ranging from age 24 to 74, advises that obesity prevention should begin early to avoid later health problems.

Women ages 25 to 44 years who began the study overweight gained the most weight of all subjects, according to the report in this month's Archives of Internal Medicine. The journal is published by the Chicago-based American Medical Association.

Among women 25- to 34-years-old, blacks were 40 per cent more likely than whites to gain a lot of weight. For women ages 35 to 44, blacks were 80 per cent more likely to face a major weight gain, the researchers found.

As many as one-third of the 9,862 subjects were overweight when the study began. They were measured once between 1971 and 1975, and again between 1981 and 1984.

Researchers led by epidemiologist David Williamson of the nutrition division at

the US Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, defined a major weight gain as an increase of about 20 per cent, or an estimated 30 pounds for a person of average height.

Among all women ages 25 to 44 who were overweight at the start, 14.2 per cent experienced a major weight gain, compared with 5.6 per cent among men of the same age.

Among women of that age group who were of normal weight when the monitoring began, 6.2 per cent gained a lot of weight, compared with 2.9 per cent among men.

After age 55, weight levels in men and women studied began declining.

The researchers did not attempt to explain the weight-gain differences among women, men and blacks, Williamson said.

"Factors related to the excess risk of major weight gain that may be different in men and women include childbearing, diet, physical activity, and patterns of morbidity and mortality," the researchers wrote.

Although women tend to live longer than men, they also tend to suffer more illnesses, which can affect activity and eating levels, Williamson said.



Hats anybody?

Summer is indeed here and this woman is ready for it. She peddles different types of hats along a busy street in the heat of Manila today, which is a constant protest demonstrations centre. (Reuters wirephoto)

Harrods owner vows to hold on

LONDON, March 14, (Reuters): The embattled Egyptian owner of Harrods, alleged to have bought London's most famous department store with lies and mystery money, says he will never be ousted.

"Harrods is my pyramid. I shall stay here forever — they can bury me on the roof," Mohamed Fayed said in an interview published in the Daily Express newspaper today.

"The dogs bark but the caravan passes on."

British government inspectors said in a report last week that Mohamed and his brother Ali lied to regulatory authorities and shareholders about their background and wealth in their 1985 takeover of Harrods.

But police fraud investigators said there was insufficient evidence for criminal charges to the £615 million (\$1 billion) deal.

Asked about the report's suggestion he was bankrolled by the Sultan of Brunei, the world's richest man, Fayed replied: "He's a friend of mine, but that doesn't mean I have to put my hand in his pocket."

Interviewer Jean Rook said trying to prise information out of Fayed on the source of his Harrods' funding was like having a conversation with the Sphinx.



ATTENTION U.S. TAXPAYERS

A representative of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will conduct seminars at the U.S. embassy on March 26, 27 and 28. Topics will include preparation of income tax returns, extensions of filing, individual retirement accounts and exclusion of income (Forum 2555). Interested persons may contact the U.S. embassy on 242-4151, ext. 263, for more detail.

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Taiwan student protesters scuffle with riot police outside the ruling Nationalist Party's Taipei headquarters. (Reuters wirephoto)

Deputies barred from assembly

Taiwan students protest

TAIPEI, March 14, (Reuters): Taiwan students staged an unprecedented protest in front of the ruling Nationalist Party's headquarters today as opposition deputies were again physically barred from the National Assembly.

Riot police backed by huge barbed-wire police line but were rebuffed.

Yesterday, riot police formed a human wall around the assembly building to prevent the DPP members from entering.

The assembly's presidium has ruled that the DPP members, who are the only opposition in the 752-member body, may not take their seats until they pledge allegiance to the "Republic of China," the name used by Taiwan's Nationalist government.

The DPP deputies earlier changed the oath to read the "Republic of Taiwan" — a slap in the face for the Nationalists, who still claim to be the legitimate rulers of all China and regard all notions of Taiwan independence as seditious.

The National Assembly, like the rest of Taiwan's tricameral Parliament, is dominated by elderly Nationalist government fled to Taiwan from China in 1949 after losing control of the mainland to communist troops.

In a move certain to inflame protesters, the assembly's screening committee this week has recommended measures that would greatly extend the powers of the National Assembly, which

barricades and water cannon sealed off all roads to the assembly meeting hall outside Taipei to prevent 11 Democratic Progressive Party members from taking their seats.

Several DPP members, along with several hundred supporters, attempted to break through the

North Korea nuke

China has no evidence

BEIJING, March 14, (UPI): China's energy minister said today he was not aware of any evidence to substantiate Western suspicions that North Korea is building a facility that could enable it to make nuclear weapons.

"I haven't heard of it at all," said Minister of Energy Huang Yicheng, in response to a question at a news conference in Beijing.

Western intelligence reports, based on satellite photography, have expressed concern about a nuclear reactor research site in Yongbyon, North Korea, about 50 miles (80 km) north of the capital of Pyongyang. The reports have cited a building on the site that could house a plant to reprocess spent nuclear reactor fuel into weapons-grade plutonium, which could be used in making an atomic bomb.

North Korea has said the plant is for research on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and has branded reports in the United States and Japan about the facility as "sheer lies."

Chinese Communist Party chairman Jiang Zemin, arriving in North Korea for a three-day visit, launched talks with President Kim Il Sung today expected to touch on bilateral and international relations, news agencies for the two communist nations reported.

normally functions only as an electoral college.

Emergency talks between Nationalist officials and DPP chairman Huang Hsin-Chieh over the issue of the pledge broke down today, and the DPP has vowed to continue to mobilise

mass protests outside the assembly hall.

One hundred students from the prestigious Taiwan National University scuffled with more than 100 riot police outside the Nationalists' headquarters during a day-long protest.

Manila sacks 3 for mutiny plot

MANILA, March 14, (UPI): Three officers have been dismissed from a central Philippine garrison for allegedly attempting to stage a mutiny last month by urging soldiers to go on a 60-day furlough, a military report said today.

The report to military headquarters in Manila said the incident happened Feb 25 at the western command headquarters in Puerto Princesa, the capital of Palawan Island, 370 miles (590 km) southwest of Manila.

Dismissed on March 1 following an investigation of the incident were Capt. Constantino Velasco, chief of staff of the

command, intelligence chief Lt. Comdr. Anelio Aguedelo and Sgt. Felix Mag-nifico.

The report said the three "attempted to incite other western command personnel by circulating anonymous letters and encouraging everybody to go on a furlough for 60 days."

The effort failed "for lack of popular support" and because of negotiations conducted by Brig. Gen. Napoleon Angeles, the garrison commander.

The report said other elements of the command were involved but no further details were disclosed. The report also did

not say why the three officers tried to stage the mutiny.

Aides to the commander said by telephone tonight that Angeles was unavailable for comment and that it was not clear if the incident was related to the Dec 1-9 coup attempt against President Corason Aquino.

At least 119 people were killed and more than 500 were wounded in the December uprising, the sixth and worst challenge in Aquino's four years as president.

In a separate development, the military announced it had uncovered a cache of thousands of rounds of assorted bullets

and mortar shells in San Mateo town.

The military said the ammunition were buried in the area about two years ago in connection with the Aug 28, 1987, coup attempt in which 53 people were killed.

Meanwhile, Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos raised the possibility of another coup attempt but expressed confidence Aquino would crush it and complete her term.

"I am very confident that the Aquino government will last through its six-year term," Ramos said when asked in a television interview last night about threats by mutineers to oust her.

Seoul has high hopes on China ties

BEIJING, March 14, (AP): South Korean Foreign Minister Choi Ho-Joong made a brief stopover in Beijing on a foreign mission Monday and expressed "high hope" the two countries would soon agree to diplomatic relations.

Choi conferred with US Ambassador James Lilley and Pakistani Ambassador M. Akram Zaki during his hour-long stay at Beijing airport, but did not meet any Chinese officials.

He left Tokyo aboard a commercial flight earlier Monday for an 11-day trip that will take him to Pakistan, India, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

In Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, Choi is to sign protocols establishing normal relations with those countries.

Choi said he was carrying no messages for Chinese officials and that his only objective during the stopover was to meet his "old friend" Lilley, who formerly served as US envoy to Seoul.

"We can exchange views" on China, he said, but there will be "no formal proposals."

"We always have high hope" of normalising relations with China, he said. "I don't know how soon it can be realised (but) I've already offered to meet with the foreign minister when the situation is right."

Choi is likely to meet one key Chinese leader during his trip. Senior leader Deng Xiaoping's son, Deng Pufang, was on the same flight to Pakistan for a visit in his capacity as head of the China Federation of Handicapped People.

Jubilant Tigers 'take' Trincomalee

More Indian troops leave Lanka

TRINCOMALEE, March 14, (Agencies): Armed Tamil Tiger guerrillas strolled once again through the dusty streets of this northeast Sri Lankan port today after the withdrawal of Indian troops who had been sent here to crush their separatist revolt. The jubilant guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) peacefully entered Trincomalee, the administrative capital of Sri Lanka's northeast province and the Indian army's last major outpost in the country, yesterday as the Indians withdrew.

"We have now taken control of seven districts in the north and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. We will be campaigning for the official dissolution of the northeast provincial council and the repealing of the sixth amendment in the Sri Lankan constitution. We have also set up two new offices in the Trincomalee town, an LTTE source in Colombo said.

All top leaders of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front have left for India. About 2,000 cadres of the EPRLF left in two ships, stated a security source based in Trincomalee.

A senior Sri Lankan army officer in Trincomalee said there had been no violence since the arrival of the Tigers, who have fought both Indian and Sri Lankan forces in their campaign to create a separate state for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

"We have reached a working arrangement with the Tigers to avoid violence, and so far it seems to be holding up very well," said the officer, who asked not to be identified.

A Tiger soldier who gave his name as Saran, cradling his automatic weapon and surrounded by several curious townspeople, said: "We have come in peace and we don't expect to have to fight."

A truce prevails in the northeast as the Tigers consolidate their grip on the region, moving into areas vacated by the withdrawing Indians.

Both the Tigers and the central

government in Colombo, controlled by the majority Sinhalese community, say they want talks, underway since mid-1989, to produce a negotiated settlement to the separatist conflict.

The Sri Lankan officer estimated there were 75 to 100 Tigers in the town of 60,000 people. The guerrillas declined to give a number.

They are far outnumbered in Trincomalee by armed Sri Lankan police deployed in the streets and by Sri Lankan soldiers from major bases in the port.

Thousands of Tamil refugees fled Trincomalee by boat to India in the weeks before the Indian withdrawal, many of them supporters of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a Tamil group that accepted the 1987 peace pact and won control of the northeast provincial government. Top EPRLF leaders flew to India from Trincomalee on Sunday.

The Tigers and the EPRLF who fought together against the Sri Lankan army before 1987 became bitter enemies after the peace pact.



Unhappy Bush still soft on Beijing

WASHINGTON, March 14, (Agencies): President George Bush yesterday conceded he was unhappy with China's response to his bid for better ties after the Tiananmen Square massacre, but said it would be wrong to adopt a tougher line.

"I'm not happy with the violation of reform in China. But I have no regrets," Bush told a news conference when asked if he regretted sending National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft on two missions to China at a time most Americans favoured sanctions against Beijing.

"I hope that our policy will bear more fruit. But no, I am not happy with the status quo," he added.

Bush, a former US envoy to China, said he had "first-hand experience in dealing with Beijing convinced him he knew more than his critics, who have accused him of knowing too little about the Chinese leadership."

Bush ended military sales to China and reluctantly imposed other sanctions after a bloody army assault killed hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

He has since eased some of the sanctions, saying it would be a mistake to isolate the world's most populous nation. His policy has been widely criticised.

Asked why he refused to change his policy "and take a tougher line toward the Chinese regime," Bush replied:

"Because I'm familiar with China, and I think we're on the right track. And I hope that we'll see any evolution of more reform. And that's exactly why not change it now."

A prominent liberal journalist has been ousted from his seat in China's nominal parliament because of his activities in sympathy with last year's pro-democracy movement, a state-run news agency reported Wednesday.

At the same time, a senior Communist Party official also criticised for his activities during last year's unrest resigned from a government advisory body, in what is believed to be a prelude to his removal from his leading party post.

UN 'big five' see jagged rocks ahead that may sink Cambodia peace ship

PARIS, March 14, (Reuters): The UN Security Council's "big five" have skillfully bypassed major obstacles at talks on a United Nations settlement for Cambodia but see jagged rocks ahead that could sink their ship of peace.

"We steered around the rocks but they're still there," said a diplomat involved in this year's third meeting between senior officials from Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

A laborious two-day round of negotiations wound up hours behind schedule yesterday with an accord that touches on the political nerve-ends of

Cambodia's civil war.

In an apparent political breakthrough, the five agreed to place supreme national authority in the hands of a council to be set up by Cambodia's four rival factions.

Though it would delegate power to a UN interim authority supervising free elections and a ceasefire, the supreme national council would effectively replace the current Phnom Penh regime.

But Vietnamese-installed Prime Minister Hun Sen has yet to agree and China and the Soviet Union, who back different sides in the conflict, are still at loggerheads over the issue.

"Our key problem is how to handle China's desire to dismantle every structure in the country and replace it all by UN officers. It's pretty damn difficult for the Russians to agree," a diplomat close to the talks said.

Too many concessions to the Chinese, who are said to want all but Cambodia's street-sweepers removed, will also cause huge funding problems for what will be the largest UN peace operation ever if it comes off.

Current estimates are around \$1.5 billion, or up to three times the cost of the Namibia peace plan.

A working paper based on the dispatch of 5,500 troops and about 2,000 administrators during an 18-month interim period puts the bill at \$1.3 billion, diplomats said.

At their most optimistic, officials involved in the process express hopes of finalising a draft agreement on a US peace role by late summer and then reconvening last year's 19-nation peace conference in Paris to put its stamp on the plan.

The five have scheduled to new rounds of talks and invited the four warring factions to a meeting which could take place in Paris in June.

Burma allows first ever TV campaigning

RANGOON, March 14, (UPI): Two political party leaders appeared on state-run television for the first-ever televised political campaigning in Burma and both promised to restore democracy to the country in the first multi-party elections in 20 years.

The carefully controlled campaign speeches broadcast Monday night were permitted by the ruling military junta — the State Law and Order Restoration Council — under tight rules established for the May 27 elections.

The development was followed by the deployment of heavily armed troops at the campus of the Rangoon Institute of Technology to stop a planned memorial for the student killed by security police in 1988 — an incident that helped spark the nation-wide protests that led to the downfall of the one-party government.

The last multi-party polls in Burma were held in 1960 — well before the arrival of television in 1980. Since a military coup in 1963 the only "elections" were held simply to approve candidates nominated by the military-backed ruling party.

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- * Clash Fashion
- * Al-Shanta for Shoes
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- * The Comfort Shoe Co.
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- * Sonono Showroom
- * Abeer Est. for Flowers
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Death railway shows stopped

BANGKOK, March 14, (AP): Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan has banned planned tourist shows along the "death railway" that were to have featured a reenactment of Japanese soldiers supervising work gangs of war prisoners, officials said Monday.

Australian Veterans' Associations had condemned the planned shows at the site where 100,000 Asian labourers and 16,000 Western prisoners — including about 6,000 Australians — died by execution and of disease and abuse during World War II.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke spoke with Chatichai by phone on Sunday and the Thai leader agreed the shows should not be held, said an official of the Australian embassy in Bangkok, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The Thai prime minister has announced that he would never allow any desecration of the memory of the allied (prisoners) and Thai people who died during the construction of the Burma-Thailand railway during World War II," the embassy official said.

A Thai newspaper, the Nation, reported Friday that a tourism company, together with the State Railways of Thailand, planned to operate rides along the railway during which tourists could see the shows of soldiers supervising work gangs.

Part of the route of the death railway was made famous in the 1957 Hollywood movie "The Bridge on the River Kwai," which celebrated the prisoners' heroism in building it. The bridge is in Kanchanaburi province about 110 km (68 miles) west of Bangkok.

Serey Wongsaphich, deputy director of planning of the tourism authority of Thailand, said the plan was made without his officer's approval.

Bush seeks \$300m for Nicaragua

WASHINGTON, March 14, (Reuters). President George Bush lifted US economic sanctions against Nicaragua yesterday and asked Congress to adopt a \$300-million emergency aid package aimed at supporting the newly elected pro-American government.

"Americans are determined to help the people of Nicaragua," Bush said in announcing that he had signed an executive order revoking sanctions imposed in 1985 to pressure the pro-Soviet Sandinista government.

The Sandinistas were defeated in

democratic elections last month.

Bush said his announcement was a "demonstration of our resolve to be part of the process of reconciliation" in Nicaragua.

Violeta Chamorro, who will be sworn in as Nicaragua's president on April 25, has requested \$300 million in emergency US aid to revive her country's battered economy.

The announcement follows a meeting in Chile between US Vice-President Dan Quayle and Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega, who promised a smooth transfer

of power.

Ortega also said yesterday his leftist Sandinista Army will never stage a coup against his democratically-elected successor, Chamorro.

"The government that is going to take office on April 25 can be completely sure, more than many Latin American administrations, that there will never, ever be a military coup in Nicaragua," Ortega said in a speech in Chile, where he took part in celebrations of Patricio Aylwin's swearing-in as president.

In Managua, the outgoing Sandinista

government yesterday described the lifting of US trade sanctions as a long-delayed "act of justice."

"We consider the lifting of the economic embargo against Nicaragua an act of justice that has taken too long to be carried out," Vice President Sergio Ramirez told a news conference.

Bush also said he would ask Congress to approve by April 5 a bipartisan "fund for democracy" to help both Nicaragua and Panama with a total package worth \$800 million in economic aid.

Mandela-de Klerk talks soon

Appeal to tighten sanctions, help ANC

STOCKHOLM, March 14, (Agencies). Nelson Mandela said yesterday he will meet South African President F.W. de Klerk as soon as arrangements are completed to discuss how to create a climate for black-white negotiations.

"The road we still have to traverse will not be long," he told the Swedish parliament. "It may not be smooth and easy but clearly the racist tyranny is on its way out."



Mandela (left) is greeted by Swedish Archbishop Bertil Wenström at the Uppsala cathedral in Stockholm. (Reuters wirephoto)

"White South Africa has elected its last racial parliament and its last apartheid president."

Mandela arrived Monday on a weeklong visit to Sweden.

Asked at an earlier news conference if he thought the next South African president would be black, Mandela said, "that is a possibility but we must leave that to the future."

Mandela told reporters the international community should provide more aid to the African National Congress and tighten sanctions against South Africa. He stopped short of a direct rebuke to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose conservative government became the first to ease economic sanctions following concessions by De Klerk.

De Klerk legalised the ANC last month and freed Mandela after he had served 27 years of a life sentence for plotting against white rule.

Mandela said it was up to ANC leaders to decide whether he should meet Thatcher, who has invited him to visit Britain.

"We expect all countries to intensify sanctions against South Africa," Mandela said. "If I visit any country, this is the message I will put forth."

He said countries should also cut diplomatic ties with South Africa.

Mandela is scheduled to meet in Stockholm tomorrow with Neil Kinnock, leader of the British opposition Labour Party, which supports anti-apartheid sanctions.

Speaking to Swedish legislators yesterday in what he said was his first address to any parliament, Mandela said the possibility of a negotiated settlement in South Africa depends on the De Klerk government.

"As yet, it has not even completed the process of creating a climate conducive to negotiations," he said. "We shall be meeting President F.W. de Klerk and his colleagues to address this issue as soon as the necessary arrangements have been completed."

The ANC has demanded that the government free all political prisoners, remove soldiers from black townships and lift the state of emergency before talks begin.

Meanwhile, Mandela said, the ANC will make strong efforts to create unity among anti-apartheid groups.

A senior white riot unit officer killed Wednesday was among four deaths, 39 injuries and 37 arrests reported by police as unrest continued in most of South Africa.

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Grenada's voters reject Eric Gairy

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, March 14, (Reuters). Grenada's voters rejected

eccentric former prime minister Sir Eric Gairy yesterday, clearing the way for a government led by the civil servant who headed a caretaker administration after US troops ousted a Marxist regime in 1983.

In a campaign marked by populist personalities and rallies to a calypso beat, Nicholas Brathwaite, a centrist National Democratic Congress claimed seven of the 15 parliament seats at stake on the tiny Caribbean spice-growing island.

Party sources said a majority government was being formed in talks with the former ruling party. The National Party, TNP leader Prime Minister Ben Jones was the only member of the party re-elected to his parliament seat.

Brathwaite, 64, was described by political observers as an able administrator who briefly led a caretaker government after US military troops ousted Grenada's Marxist government in 1983. He first became active in party politics when he joined the fledgling National Democratic Congress in October 1988.

The election was the second held since Grenada's return to democracy in 1983.

The result was a rebuff for Gairy, who lost his own bid for a seat in parliament, according to unofficial vote counts. Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) won five seats. The leftist party led by Terrence Marryshow, an offshoot of the party ousted in the US-led invasion, failed to win a seat.

A leftist, Maurice Bishop, had taken power in a 1979 coup and was toppled four years later by hard-liners in his own party.



New Haitian interim President Aristide (left) stands next to Haitian armed forces chief Gen. Hérard Abraham as an honour guard passes by in Port-au-Prince after Trouillot assumed power. Trouillot, 43, will head a provisional government until elections are held. (Reuters wirephoto)

Woman president sworn in

Pascal vows to clean up Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, March 14, (AP). President Ertha

Pascal-Trouillot pledged at her inauguration "to clean the face of Haiti" with a provisional civilian government that will lead this country to its first free elections.

Pascal-Trouillot who took a leave of absence as supreme court justice, is the first female president in the 186-year history of this impoverished Caribbean island nation.

She was sworn in yesterday, one day after military ruler Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril fled violent demonstrations.

Haiti, which occupies the western half of the island of Hispaniola, was rocked for a week by protests against Avril's 18-month rule that left at least 24 dead.

"I have accepted this heavy task in the name of Haitian women," she told hundreds of political and civic leaders, diplomats and army officers at the national palace ceremony.

"My government will be what you want it to be."

Pascal-Trouillot, 43, will govern along with a 19-member advisory council until elections are held, possibly in three to six months.

"In the short time I have, I will work to clean the face of Haiti," she promised.

She spoke in both French and Creole, the island Patois.

"President of the republic, the armed forces of Haiti are at your command," said Maj. Gen. Hérard Abraham, who led a caretaker government for 72 hours after Avril resigned Saturday. "The army is returning and staying in the barracks."

The audience wildly cheered Abraham's words.

After the ceremony, thousands of Haitians outside the domed, white-stone palace filled Champ de Mars Plaza and cheered when she came outside, saluted by an army band on the palace lawn.

UN chief seeks to extend Namibian force

UNITED NATIONS, March 14, (AP). Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has asked the Security Council to act urgently on a request to extend the UN presence in Namibia, set to gain independence next week after 75 years of South African rule.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has asked Perez de Cuellar for an extension of at least three months of the UN mission monitoring moves toward independence in Namibia.

The South-West Africa People's Organisation, fighting for independence since 1966, also wants some forces of the UN transition assistance group to remain so the Namibian government led by Sam Nujoma can train a national army and strengthen local police forces.

The UN force, also known as UNTAG, at its peak had 4,470 military observers and 1,500 police supervisors. Hundreds of pollwatchers also were in Namibia during elections in November that gave Swapo a majority of seats in the constituent assembly.

Carrera International presents its sunglasses collection

Under the sponsorship of His Excellency Sheikh Bandar Al-Sabah, the Chairman of Al-Arabli Club, the winners of the Carrera International Open squash tournament among all the Kuwaiti clubs were presented with cups and air tickets that included the Yugoslavia beautiful city of Dubrovnik together with London and Cyprus. Also presented were 1990 models of Carrera sunglasses and frames.

All the opticians together with some businessmen as well as the General Manager of Yugoslav Airlines were present.



Tarik Al-Nakib, Carrera International Agent in between Ms. Franz Wagenader and Friedrich Geretschlag, after being presented the plaque from Al-Arabli Club.



From right: Tarik Al-Nakib, Franz Wagenader, Djordje Todoric - Yugoslav Airlines General Manager, Mr. Yaqub Al-Husaini 1st winner, Mr. Saleh Al-Awadhi tournament organiser and Mr. Saleh Al-Shimali 1st winner.

Mr. Nabih Hussein Manager of Suad Trading with Mr. Franz Wagenader standing between Ms. Saleh Al-Awadhi and Mohammed Al-Jazzar who both organised the tournament.

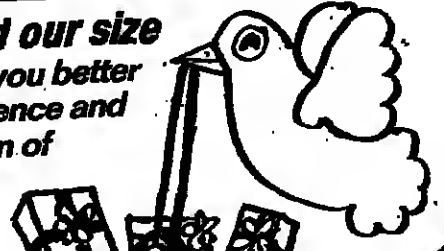
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INTERNATIONAL



Kohl (left) shakes hands with jubilant Cottbus residents waving German banners during an election campaign of East German "Alliance for Germany" in central Cottbus, East Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)

Modrow warns East Germans

Don't rush for unity

EAST BERLIN, March 14, (Agencies): East Germany's communist Premier Hans Modrow, holding his first election rally, warned against rushing into unity with rich and powerful West Germany.

The note of caution appeared aimed at many East Germans worried about a capitalist takeover of East Germany, possible soaring unemployment and sharp cuts in the state's social safety net.

Hours before Modrow spoke yesterday at a party rally in Neubrandenburg, a top West German politician, Christian Democratic Union General Secretary Volker Ruehe, acknowledged that international concerns are slowing unification and said the process could take at least three years to complete because it is so complex.

Ruehe told reporters in Bonn that unification cannot be completed "as long as the external questions... are not settled."

In other developments yesterday: ● West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said East Germans will be able to exchange their personal savings one-to-one for West German marks, according to a report on the ZDF television network.

● Officials in Kohl's conservative Christian Democratic Union said the party favours drastic cutbacks on social benefits for East Germans moving to West Germany in the future. The efforts, a response to the strain created by the surge of East Germans moving West since last summer, would be linked to current efforts to merge the two countries' currencies.

● The state-run East German news agency ADN said Modrow told the Israeli government for the first time that his country is ready to discuss returning the property of Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

The agency, reporting on a letter from Modrow to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, did not mention the much more controversial issue of reparation payments.

Modrow, the top communist candidate, is considered far more popular among East Germans than his party. He barnstormed through his home district north



Modrow waves a bunch of flowers after his election campaign speech in a stadium in Neubrandenburg. (Reuters wirephoto)

Stop spying, Bonn tells agents

BONN, March 14, (Reuters): The West German secret service (BND) has ordered its agents in East Germany to stop spying, Bild newspaper said today.

The decision, following East Germany's announcement on Monday that it would disband its own huge spy network, means the two countries would no longer spy on each other.

Quoting security sources, Bild said the order deactivating the agents had gone out from the BND's headquarters in Pullach, a suburb of Munich.

The newspaper also quoted a security expert as saying it was clear that after East German elections this weekend "the spying activities in the other part of Germany will not be restarted."

Bild, which released the report ahead of publication on Thursday, said some of the estimated 400 BND agents had already been brought home.

The BND would do its best to erase traces of the clandestine activities of those wishing to stay in East Germany, it added.

of Berlin in last-minute campaigning before Sunday's free parliamentary elections.

Modrow stressed the communists' opposition to unity under Article 23 of the West German constitution, which allows individual East German states to decide to join West Germany. ADN reported from a rally in the town of Demmin.

The communists "want to be a left-wing force that helps ensure that social safety and a market economy do not clash" in East Germany, Modrow was quoted as telling another meeting.

Modrow has acknowledged that a resurgence of anti-Semitism and racism in a unified Germany is a "legitimate fear," the

dean of the Simon Wiesenthal centre said yesterday.

In a letter to Rabbi Marvin Hier, the dean of the Nazi documentation centre, Modrow stressed that East Germans were aware of the past and that a growing movement was trying to prevent Nazism from re-emerging.

● Nato Secretary-General Manfred Wörner was quoted today as saying Soviet troops could stay in a unified Germany for a negotiated length of time.

Wörner, in an interview with regional French newspapers, said on the eve of talks in Bonn to discuss unification that the West could provide solid guarantees to the Soviet Union that its security interests would be respected.

The first role of the new parliament will be to write a new constitution to replace the one in effect under Ceausescu.

The council delegates, representing the 51 political parties that have established themselves since the revolution as well as ethnic groups, approved the new election provision overwhelmingly.

"The president does not have the right to become eternal," said Mircea Dinescu, president of the Writers' Union and one of the first to announce Ceausescu's overthrow on Dec 22 after 24 years of iron-fisted rule.

Interim President Ion Iliescu also stressed the need to avoid long-term political domination by any one individual after the new parliament takes office.

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GDR leader quits over spy affair

EAST BERLIN, March 14, (Reuters): East German conservative leader Wolfgang Schnur, accused of spying for the former Stasi security police, resigned today, just four days before the country's first democratic election.

His dramatic withdrawal as head of the Democratic Awakening Party dealt a severe blow to the three-party conservative alliance for Germany backed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Schnur, who had been tipped as a possible prime minister, issued a statement which for the first time stopped short of

denying that he had been an informer for the hated Stasi security police.

"Since I am unable at present to clear up objectively the allegations against me, I am drawing the consequences in the interest of political honesty and responsibility," said the statement read to a West Berlin news conference.

The 45-year-old human rights lawyer had been seen as a possible prime minister if the rightists, gaining in the opinion polls, topped Sunday's ballot.

Schnur, who is in hospital after collapsing last week, said in his statement that he

had always tried to help the persecuted and oppressed.

West Berlin Christian Democratic (CDU) leader Eberhard Diepgen said Schnur had acknowledged passing information to the now-defunct Ministry of State Security.

"Mr Schnur passed information sporadically in the period from the end of the 1970s to the ministry, without incriminating individuals," Diepgen said.

Democratic Awakening, co-founded by Schnur after Stasi leader Erich Honecker fell last October, featured the lawyer

on its campaign posters with the slogan "the honest alternative."

A citizens' committee studying Schnur's hometown of Rostock said last week it had found documents naming him as an informer on church and dissident affairs.

West Germany then said he had for years risked prison to pass information on political persecution to Bonn.

Schnur initially denied on his home town ever having worked with the Stasi. Friends alleged the documents were forged to discredit the conservative leader.

Maggie jolted by MP revolt

LONDON, March 14, (Reuters): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, shaken by three cabinet resignations in five months and a minor revolt in Parliament, today repaired the latest breach in her line-up to fight Britain's next general election.

Thatcher named Local Government Minister David Hunt, 47, currently in charge of introducing a controversial new "poll tax," to take over as secretary of state for Wales in May.

An aide to Thatcher said she was not proposing any further changes to the cabinet before the election, due by mid-1992.

Thatcher's government suffered an embarrassing reverse yesterday when fellow Conservatives in the House of Commons joined the opposition Labour Party in a vote on welfare payments for the elderly. The vote was quickly reversed, but not before the damage was done.

It was the first defeat since the 1987 general election for the government, which trails the opposition Labour Party by up to 19 points in opinion polls and faces widespread protest over the poll tax.

Thatcher's cabinet was jolted earlier this month when Peter Walker, one of only two ministers left from her original cabinet of 1979, announced he was leaving and would retire from politics at the next general election.

Walker said he wanted to spend more time with his family, the reason cited in January by the then Employment Secretary Norman Fowler in his surprise resignation from the cabinet.

Thatcher said after a reshuffle in July last year that she intended it to be the cabinet to fight the next election.

But she was forced into further extensive changes in October when Nigel Lawson quit as Chancellor of the Exchequer after a dispute over policy, particularly the timing of Britain's entry into the European exchange rate system.

Iran holiday for Azeris

NICOSIA, March 14, (Reuters): Officials in Soviet Azerbaijan, where Azeris have been agitating for closer ties with their Iranian kin, have declared the start of the Iranian new year, Now Ruz, a national holiday, Iran's Irna news agency said.

The decision, made by the supreme council of Azerbaijan Soviet republic, was announced by Baku radio today, the agency said.

New Ruz, celebrated in Iran and Afghanistan according to a pre-Islamic tradition, falls on March 21, the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

Romanians flood Austria: Thousands of Romanians swarmed into Austria yesterday in a last-minute race to beat visa curbs as the Vienna parliament debated controversial new entry rules.

Police in the eastern province of Burgenland said 5,000 Romanians had driven into the country since Tuesday evening, more than the total since the start of the year. (Reuters)

Pope names 12 bishops: Pope John Paul II named 12 bishops in Romania yesterday signalling another major step toward normalising relations with the former communist-ruled states of Eastern Europe.

The new bishops included seven appointed to the Latin rite Catholic church and five to Catholics of the oriental rite who also regard the Pope as their head. (UPI)

Unesco staff will strike: Angry staff at Unesco decided on Tuesday to strike for two hours to protest against a \$6 million administrative overhaul announced last week by director-general Federico Mayor.

The stoppage by at least 600 office staff and

Soviet Parliament to elect president

Direct poll will lead to civil war: Likhachev

MOSCOW, March 14, (Agencies): The Soviet Parliament today rejected a bid by radicals for national elections to choose the country's first executive-style president, keeping the right for itself.

The vote of 1,542 to 368, with 76 abstentions, virtually assured Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's election to the post with unprecedented constitutional powers.

A successful proposal needs 1,497 votes, two-thirds of the 2,245

deputies.

Earlier Gorbachev had accused his opponents of deliberately holding up the crucial vote.

"This is clearly an attempt to lead Parliament astray," a test Gorbachev had told deputies as a host of amendments aimed at trimming the new presidential powers stalled progress at the Congress of People's Deputies.

Soviet envoy denounces KGB defector

WASHINGTON, March 14, (UPI): The Soviet Union has filed a protest with the State Department accusing the CIA of malicious efforts to derail improving relations with the United States through its role a decade ago in smuggling a KGB employee out of the country.

Sergei Chetverikov, the No. 2 official at the Soviet embassy, denounced the statements of Victor Ivanovich Sheynov, at a news conference in which he accused the KGB of plotting to kill Pope John Paul II and the president of Pakistan.

"Just like any lie, this CIA fake involving Sheynov has 'short legs' which once again demonstrates what kind of unsavoury activities that organisation is engaging in, and its unscrupulous plots," Chetverikov said at a hastily arranged news conference at the Soviet embassy.

Chetverikov said he "lodged a strong protest" with Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger over the incident, which he now hopes Washington and Moscow can put to rest.

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Mongolian trade unions threaten

Challenge to Communist Party

ULAN BATOR, March 14, (Reuters): Mongolia's powerful trade unions threatened today to divorce themselves from the country's beleaguered Communist Party in what officials and diplomats said was a serious blow to the party's weakening grip on power.

The challenge was laid down as the party's 240 central committee members met for a third day and prepared for a late-night vote expected to accept the resignation of their leader, Zhambyn Batmunkh, and the seven-man politburo.

Batmunkh, a cautious reformer who has led the Mongolian party since 1984, proposed the mass resignation on Monday under pressure from newly formed opposition parties inspired by East Europe's dramatic political changes.

Diplomats said they expected the party to ren-

ounce its 66-year-old absolute right to rule, thereby paving the way for democratic elections in this vast and remote country.

The trade union newspaper Labour published a statement by the Central Council of the Mongolian Trade Unions proposing that a "new, independent, united and free" movement be formed.

"We should have the task of making the trade unions a real movement which is independent of outside control," said the newspaper.

A foreign ministry official said the Labour movement, which includes almost every worker, excluding some nomadic herdsmen, in this country of two million people was a powerful force and had long been a bedrock of communist support.

"This is another of the party's big power bases which is crumbling," a diplomat commented.

The delegates voted to bar from candidacy anyone who committed abuses in political, judicial or administrative functions, were guilty of human rights violations, or took part in repression by the police or the Securitate, Ceausescu's dreaded secret police.

The Council of National Unity also voted to hold elections within one year after a new constitution is formulated and adopted by the new parliament to be democratically elected on May 20.

The council, which is acting as a makeshift parliament until the elections, is in the process of drafting an electoral law to govern the May elections which will establish a bicameral parliamentary system with a prime minister and

Soviet envoy denounces KGB defector

WASHINGTON, March 14, (UPI): The Soviet Union has filed a protest with the State Department accusing the CIA of malicious efforts to derail improving relations with the United States through its role a decade ago in smuggling a KGB employee out of the country.

Sergei Chetverikov, the No. 2 official at the Soviet embassy, denounced the statements of Victor Ivanovich Sheynov, at a news conference in which he accused the KGB of plotting to kill Pope John Paul II and the president of Pakistan.

"Just like any lie, this CIA fake involving Sheynov has 'short legs' which once again demonstrates what kind of unsavoury activities that organisation is engaging in, and its unscrupulous plots," Chetverikov said at a hastily arranged news conference at the Soviet embassy.

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Allies object to Soviet arms monitor

WASHINGTON, March 14, (AP): Allied objections to Soviet monitors at weapons plants and ports forced the United States to change a formula for policing a treaty to reduce Soviet tanks and troops in Europe, a senior US government official said yesterday.

The revised verification package will be presented later this year in Vienna as negotiators for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Warsaw Pact would hold their sixth round of talks on a treaty designed for signing this year.

Whether the goal is achieved could depend on how the Soviets respond to the Western proposal. "The ball is in their court," said the US official who outlined the latest developments on the condition he would not be identified.

The US dealt with its allies' concern about the intrusive monitoring scheme by abandoning the controversial portion.

The US official said virtually all the NATO allies objected to having "the KGB standing there" — a reference to allowing Soviet or other Warsaw Pact inspectors to be stationed at weapons plants or to check arms coming into or out of European ports.

That, he said, would reveal to the Soviets information about the manufacture and delivery of Western arms that the allies wanted to keep secret.

The United States accepted a similar arrangement at US plants and ports to police a 1988

treaty with the Soviet Union to ban intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

But when it came to intrusive inspection in Europe under the conventional forces treaty "the allies felt the United States was pushing them too hard on the right of manufacturers and their national rights," the official said.

He added: "They were most insistent on these points... that set of proposals went absolutely nowhere in Europe."

The emerging accord calls for sharp reductions in Soviet tanks and artillery in Eastern and Central Europe and a ceiling of 195,000 Soviet troops in the region. There would be much smaller cutbacks in US tanks and troops.

The United States could keep 195,000 soldiers and airmen in West Germany, Belgium,

the Netherlands, Denmark and Luxembourg, and an additional 30,000 in other NATO countries.

President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev have set as a goal that the 16 NATO allies and the seven Warsaw Pact countries sign the treaty at a 35-nation summit meeting.

But several issues remain unresolved, including the procedure to guard against cheating.

The task is awesome. It involves policing the vast expanse of Europe — from the Ural Mountains in the Soviet Union to the Atlantic Ocean — to make sure limits on tanks and armoured personnel carriers, anti-aircraft artillery, airplanes, helicopters and troops are honoured.



Castro addresses students of the University of Havana. (Reuter wirephoto)

No concessions Castro declares

'I won't be good boy'

HAVANA, March 14, (Agencies): Cuban President Fidel Castro said yesterday he would not listen to advice from other world leaders to be a "good boy" and make political concessions in his 31-year-old communist rule.

Castro told a rally of thousands of students in Havana that he would attend the inauguration in Brazil tomorrow of President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello, where he would meet heads of state from Latin America and elsewhere.

"There won't be any shortage of advice for me. I know what it will be in advance. I know it by heart," he said.

The Cuban leader added that he expected some other leaders to tell him that he should "behave himself, be a good boy, make concessions."

"Should we make concessions?" he asked the crowd, which the rally organisers said totalled more than 40,000. "No," they roared.

"Never, that's the word, never," Castro said.

"No revolution that ever makes concessions can save itself," he added.

Castro defiantly has rejected the Western-leaning reforms being embraced by Cuba's former allies in Eastern Europe and insists Cuba will never abandon its one-party communist system.

Castro said his trip to Brazil would show that Cuba was not becoming internationally isolated by the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

He added he would discuss with the other leaders in Brazil such issues as Latin American debt and what he called the unequal economic relations between rich and poor nations.

The next big clash between Cuba and the United States is just over the horizon, literally. It takes the form of a US balloon floating above the Florida keys designed to beam "capitalist" programming to Cuba.

After years of preparations, testing of the Voice of America broadcast operation will begin shortly, and Cuban officials are guaranteeing an energetic response to what they regard as a blatant intrusion on national sovereignty.

They want no part of US news shows, situation comedies and soap operas. They are not persuaded by US arguments that the station, known as TV Marti, will not be a propaganda mouthpiece for rightist militants.

"Tele-aggression" is just one of the epithets that Castro uses in denouncing the US plan.

Ramon Sanchez Parodi, a vice-foreign minister, says Cuba is considering a range of retaliatory measures for TV Marti, including curtailing travel and telephone communications between Cuba and the United States.

Another possibility is that Cuba, with the use of high-powered transmitters, will interfere with US radio broadcasts.

Judge sets Noriega's trial date in early 1991

MIAMI, March 14, (AP): The federal judge in the drug-trafficking case against Gen. Manuel Noriega yesterday set an early 1991 trial date and issued a sweeping order on the handling of classified national security information by attorneys.

The protective order issued yesterday by US district Judge William Hoeveler could hinder defence attorneys seeking access to thousands of documents they say will corroborate their claim that the deposed Panamanian ruler acted with CIA approval for many years.

Yesterday, Hoeveler set Jan 28, 1991, as the trial date for Noriega and four co-defendants. A Noriega defence attorney called it "a realistic date" but said the trial would probably be delayed.

Hoeveler's 12-page protective order sets comprehensive ground rules defining what may be considered classified national security information in the Noriega case under the Classified Information Procedures Act of 1980.

Noriega's attorneys must get court approval before seeing any government documents marked "confidential," "secret," "top secret" or "sensitive compartmented information," the judge wrote.

Also restricted is classified information from any federal agency that deals with national security. Information in books, newspapers and other publications are similarly restricted. If the published reports include confirmation by someone with access to classified information and if the Justice Department believes it could affect national security, Hoeveler wrote.

The ruling could be a blow to the defence, which has maintained that volumes of information published in newspapers and recent book about Noriega's role in US foreign policy and the war on drugs is already common knowledge and should be allowed as evidence at the trial.



Barry admits to chemical dependency; won't resign

WASHINGTON, March 14, (AP): Mayor Marion Barry yesterday publicly confessed a "chemical dependency" to alcohol and two prescription drugs, but said he won't resign while fighting federal cocaine and perjury charges.

"I'm back. I feel good about myself," the mayor said in his first extended public appearance since being charged and leaving the city for substance abuse treatment in Florida and South Carolina.

Barry read a lengthy statement that made no mention of cocaine. Nor did he say directly whether he intends to seek a fourth term as mayor. He said his campaign manager would make an announcement shortly about this fall's campaign. He left without answering reporters' questions.

Barry said he was diagnosed at a Florida Treatment Centre as being dependent on alcohol, valium and xanax. Valium and xanax are both commonly prescribed to treat anxiety.

He said he would attend treatment sessions once or twice a day, as well as therapy sessions with others who are addicted. He implored the news media to "respect my privacy and the privacy of other recovering people."



Tornado kills one

A tornado swept through Hesston town on Tuesday evening, killing at least one person and destroying up to 15 homes and businesses, authorities said.

"It took a direct hit and there is major damage," said a dispatcher with the Kansas highway patrol in Wichita.

A man was killed when a chimney and fireplace collapsed into a basement where he and his family were huddled during the storm, said Harvey county sheriff's investigator Byron Mortar.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Army clears women soldiers: Two women soldiers who balked at driving US troops into an area of heavy fighting in Panama will not be disciplined, the army said yesterday, reporting its inquiry found there was no "order given and subsequently refused."

"The US Army has determined that disciplinary action is not warranted in the case of two female drivers who expressed reservations about driving combat troops into Panama City, several hours into the first day of operation Just Cause," the army said in a statement issued from Panama.

A "commander's inquiry" was called after reports in January that the two women had refused to drive troops into a combat area during the Dec 20 invasion of Panama. Some news reports said they were shot. (UPI)

Contras can be disbanded by April 25: A special UN representative on Nicaragua expressed confidence that the Contra rebels can be disbanded by the April 25 inauguration of president-elect Violeta Chamorro. Elliot Richardson, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representative on the Nicaraguan election process, said a developing UN-sponsored plan to disarm and eventually resettle the US-backed Contras will guarantee their security.

"I think that practical safeguards for their demobilisation can be provided," he told a news conference. (AP)

Quayle arrives in Argentina: US Vice President Dan Quayle arrived yesterday for a 20-hour visit in Buenos Aires.

Air Force 2 touched down at 2:45 pm (1645 GMT) at Ezeiza international airport. Quayle, his wife and travelling committee of several dozen were greeted by Vice President Eduardo Duhalde and US Ambassador Terence Todman.

Quayle was to confer with President Carlos Menem at government house, then meet with legislators at Congress. No formal announcement or communique was planned. (AP)

Anti-crime sweep in Panama: More than 1,500 Panamanian and US forces sealed off a Panama City slum yesterday and arrested 145 people in a search for drugs, weapons and fugitives, officials said.

Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon said the sweep of the San Miguelito district, with a population of more than 100,000 people, was part of an ongoing effort dubbed "rescue of tranquility" and aimed at curbing a crime wave which has swept Panama City since the US invasion last

December. A spokesman for the US southern command said 250 American troops had assisted in the operation, manning roadblocks and sealing off the area. (Reuter)

Missile test-fired off Florida: A US Navy Trident II test missile was fired from a submerged submarine on a demonstration and shakedown cruise off the coast of Florida, the Defence Department announced.

The announcement said the fleet ballistic missile was launched Sunday night from the USS Pennsylvania, the second Ohio class nuclear-powered submarine built specifically to carry the missile.

It was the 30th flight of the missile since January 1987, and was the second to be launched during a demonstration and shakedown operation, designed to test the ability of the crew to handle, maintain and operate the weapons system. (AP)



Retail station

US President Bush shakes hands with Ford Motor Company chairman Harold Poole (right) as an unidentified Sunoco gas station attendant looks on at the station. Bush was given a demonstration of the first retail station in the DC area to dispense methanol fuel and of a Ford alternative-fuels car. (Reuter wirephoto)

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KUWAIT ... GULF

KU students union call for charter modification

370 suspended in last semester

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY National Students Union held an open meeting with Dr. Shuaib Abdullah Al Shuaib, the university rector recently at the cafeteria of the Arts College in Kaifan.

Union leader, Naser Al Enizi making the opening speech at the meeting called upon the university administration to implement measures to resolve the problems created by the 1986 charter for university students and demanded a stop to student suspension from the university and called for giving them adequate opportunities to improve upon their academic standing.

Shuaib, however, said that statistics indicated that a total of 370 students had

been suspended from the university during the last academic semester and commented that this number is not catastrophic.

He added that the university administration is studying the charter and it will not adopt any modifications before conducting an in-depth study. The official commented that we should not place the entire blame on the charter, but pointed out that students are also highly responsible. He indicated that there are a number of students who still attend colleges for as long as 10 years and underscoring the fact that this is unacceptable.

Regarding the methods applied at the university in recording students' academic standings at graduation, he said that the

currently implemented method is a part of the credit hours system. He stressed that cancellation of the speciality warning is not yet approved from both the deans' council and the university council. Many students who have received university warning notes have been given another chance. He pointed out that clearly there is a good chance that this will be cancelled.

A member of the university administrative staff at the Sciences Society stated that the university still lacks the adequate definition of academic development. He stressed that such developments should be carried out on four important basis namely, instructor, educational facilities, university administration and students.

He added that the university administration looks at students as if they were the cause behind the problems at the university, which is in his understanding. He pointed out that experimentation is the correct method to be followed adding that the university charter was a failure and that there is no reason why it should not be modified.

He also talked about the role played by the charter in the infiltration of students belonging to 1986 batch.

A student called upon the university administration to set a final date for presenting suggestions and proposals of guidance and supervisory offices regarding the modification of the charter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Housing council

KUWAIT, March 14, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah yesterday presided over a meeting of the Supreme Housing Council.

The council's Secretary-General Ibrahim Majid Al Shaheen told Kuna that today's meeting reviewed the agenda and endorsed minutes of the previous meeting.

He said the council further discussed a report presented by the policy and planning committee on classifications and areas of land plots to be included in the fifth four-year housing plan.

Al Shaheen said the council also discussed proposals in line with HH Sheikh Saad's directives to minimize the waiting period for those who applied for housing care.

Culture session

KUWAIT, March 14, (Kuna): State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed yesterday chaired the 32nd session of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters.

The council's Secretary-General Dr Farouk Al Omar said that the conferees debated cultural agreements between Kuwait and other countries and recommended the launching of a comprehensive study on the country's benefit from such accords by the general secretariat.

The council discussed the proposal for establishing a cultural centre for children and recommended speeding up its establishment among other issues.

French envoy

PARIS, March 14, (Kuna): Jean-Pierre Guyot, current French envoy in Zambia, has been appointed ambassador in the Sultanate of Oman, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

The 61-year-old diplomat has previously served as deputy consul in Cairo from 1971 until 1973 and as Deputy Consul and advisor in Beirut from 1973 until 1975.

Guyot, a graduate from the Institute of Islamic Studies of the University of Paris and of the National School of Oriental Languages (Arab), will replace Charles Jeantelot.

King received

RIYADH, March 14, (Kuna): Saudi Arabian Crown Prince and Chief of the National Guards Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz yesterday received at his office British Secretary of State for Defence Tom King.

King also met with the Second Deputy Premier, Defence and Aviation Minister and Inspector General Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz where they held talks on issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by senior officials on both sides.

GCC talks

RIYADH, March 14, (Kuna): Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Esmat Abdel Meguid last night paid a visit to the Gulf Co-operation Council secretariat general headquarters.

Abdul Meguid held talks with GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Ya'qub Bishara on the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, in addition to issues of interest to the Arab world.

After the meeting, the Egyptian top official said that he briefed Bishara on the latest contacts carried out by Egypt with the US and other concerned parties to establish peace in the Middle East.

Saudi loan

RIYADH, March 14, (Kuna): Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Esmat Abdel Meguid, co-chairmen of the second session of the joint Saudi-Egyptian commission, were present at the signing here yesterday of an agreement between their countries to promote co-operation in economic, commercial, investment and technical spheres.



Naval delegation at Paaet

A delegation from the Kuwait Navy paid an inspection visit to the Telecommunication and Air Navigation Centre of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet). The visiting delegation was received by the director of the centre Jassim Al Zink and a number of officials at the centre.

No price hike during Ramadan, says Noon

Utilisation of surplus vegetables

THE chairman of the Kuwait Union of Co-operative Agro-productive Societies Barak Al Noon has said that the price of vegetables and other agro-products, particularly tomatoes will not increase during the month of Ramadan. Credit should be given to the consistent efforts exerted by Kuwaiti farmers which guaranteed the ability to meet all market demand during this period, the official said.

Speaking at a press conference held yesterday on the implementation of the co-operative marketing system national agro-products he said that the union is currently involved in extensive studies to set up factories in the country that could utilise the surplus of national agro-products, such as tomatoes, particularly if local produce exceeded market demand.

The system was put in operation last Thursday, and this required reaching an agreement with a number of refrigeration companies which could provide refrigerated transport services around the country from production sites to marketing platforms.

Packaging

Noon added that this would also require the paper packaging services without any price increase, in a bid to provide the consumer with the best possible service and keep the product fresh as long as possible.

He added that arrangements had been taken to provide refrigerated transport vans to transfer the produce on a daily basis from Wafra and Abdali, and that union staff had been put in charge of

loading and unloading in return for symbolic fees. He said that the vegetables market would be open to receive the continuous supply of fresh produce from five in the evening till five the next morning, where union staff would seek to sell the stuff on behalf of the farmer by a bidding system to ensure the best possible price and a 3 per cent commission to cover administrative expenses.

The union has several years of experience in the field of marketing derived from the multiple visits carried to different countries of the world, such as Egypt, India, Morocco and others, based on which the new marketing system had been developed and upgraded.

System

He added that the successful operation of the new system would result in better services to both farmers and consumers, while the union's main objectives remained to offer the best services to consumers and at the same time provide all possible aid to the development of the agro-productive sector in the country, in response to the directives of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He paid high tribute to the support and role played by the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority's chairman and director general Sheikh Ibrahim Duail Al Sabah, and the support rendered to the union by the acting director general of Kuwait Municipality Sheikh Sabah Al Jaber Al Ali in providing needed facilities and meeting farmers' needs.



Symposium

On the occasions of Lufthansa and Deutsche Klinik for Diagnostic Medical Symposium, an update of the latest developments in the field of healthcare in Germany was given at a press conference held at the Sharaton Hotel Tuesday. Touristic information on Germany and the City of Wiesbaden was also given. Picture shows some representatives.

Shaheen praises new housing care system

GENERAL Director of the National Housing Authority, Dr Ibrahim Majid Al Shaheen praised the new housing care system. He added that the new system modifies and resolves most issues linked with housing systems offered by the government to citizens.

He indicated that the system will provide citizens with many incentives, particularly those who are interested in putting their money in providing their families housing care after obtaining government plots.

He stated that distribution of housing replacements is carried out according to the date of application registration adding that orphans have special priority.

He pointed out that parents who have been issued approvals for buildings are not permitted to demand change of housing nor change of area, unless special reasons are provided.

He explained that housing care has ensured housing rights for Kuwaiti families consisting of father, mother and children. He indicated that individuals married to two wives are not permitted another house. Divorced wives have the right to share their husbands housing if they have custody of the children. He added that if children are in the custody of the father then divorced wives have no right to demand a share in the house.

Israel ties

Hungary bowed to pressure: Medgyssy

KUWAIT, March 14, (Kuna): Hungary's Deputy Premier Peter Medgyssy was quoted here today conceding that his country had bowed to pressures from the international Zionist lobby and to temptation of foreign aid in reviving diplomatic relations with Israel.

Medgyssy, in an interview published in a Kuwaiti daily painstakingly stressed, however, that his country still opposes Israel's policies and its seizure of Arab land by force.

He argued that restoration of links with the Jewish state would give Hungary a better opportunity to help resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Budapest resumed diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv in September 1989 ending a 22-year rupture.

The Hungarian deputy premier challenged suggestions that his country's official media have been prejudiced against Arabs lately and stressed that Budapest was seeking improved relations with the Arab world.

He said some excesses of Arabs living in Hungary should not stigmatise all Arabs.

He also sought to play down his country's co-operation with Israel, saying the Jewish state has limited capabilities to benefit Hungary.

Medgyssy expressed that Arab countries, including Kuwait would take a share in the privatisation of the Hungarian economy and said Kuwait can particularly be involved in industrial and tourism ventures in his country.

Referring to the current visit to Budapest by Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa, he said Hungary would resort to the Arab world for oil in case the Soviet Union ceased to be his country's main supplier.

UMO assistance to needy students begins

UNITED Malayalee Organisation (UMO), an apex body of 10 Malayalee cultural organisations has started to implement their charity scheme of giving financial assistance to needy and brilliant students of their home state of Kerala in India. UMO despatched rupee drafts to 101 selected students from the total applications received in this connection. According to UMO this is the beginning of the project and their efforts will continue to assist more applicants from the list and also to continue support to already selected students during the further period in their course of studies.

A UMO press release stated that the criteria of selection was based on the academic brilliance and parent's annual income, irrespective of religion and caste. Orphans and disabled persons were given special considerations.

Hirawi message

ABU DHABI, March 14, (Kuna): President of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan today received a message from Lebanese President Elias Hirawi concerning the status quo in Lebanon and bilateral relations. The message was delivered by the visiting Lebanese Finance Minister Ali Al Khalil during his meeting with Sheikh Zayed today.

CSC still appointing expatriate employees

MOE to hire more Kuwaitis

By Jamal Amin

THREE methods have been proposed by the Ministry of Planning to achieve the main goals of comprehensive administrative development and carry out policies of administrative development in the private sector, according to a local daily.

Sources said that these suggestions have been proposed to follow up reports made by the ministry on applications of policies of the present five-year plan 85/1990. These suggestions include the preparation of a new system to classify jobs at the public sector, redistribution of public servants over departments that suffer from shortage and to formulate a comprehensive plan for administrative training.

The sources explained that the Civil Service Commission stressed its obligation towards the application of decisions of the Civil Service Council about prohibiting the appointment of non-Kuwaitis in government jobs that are subjected to the supervision of the commission. The

commission said that it is still appointing non-Kuwaitis in service jobs and handicrafts that are not preferred by Kuwaitis. Reports of the commission added that 4014 Kuwaiti employees were appointed in the government sector between 1/7/88 and 30/6/89 of which 2803 were males and 1211 females. The reports added that 56 per cent of these recruits were carrying university degrees and 22 per cent were illiterates.

Teachers
The reports added that Kuwaitis who were appointed from the beginning of the present Five Year Plan totalled 64534 employees and non-Kuwaitis employees were 79396. The Kuwaitis working in clerical jobs increased by 3087 employees during last year out of 6807 employees while Kuwaitis working in technical jobs reduced to 1511 employees last year. The reports added that 5195 non-Kuwaiti public servants resigned including 1040 teachers and 1702 working in services.

Meanwhile, well informed sources announced yesterday

that the Education Ministry is planning to increase the percentage of Kuwaiti teachers in the ministry to 41.5 per cent by the end of the current fiscal year. Kuwaiti teachers last year formed 38.8 per cent and the current fiscal year ends on June 30. The sources added that the ministry aims at increasing the ratio of Kuwaiti teachers in kindergarten to 90 per cent, in the primary stage to 76 per cent, in the intermediate to 53.2 and to 22.7 in the secondary stage by the above said date.

The available statistics about Kuwaiti teachers show that their numbers have greatly increased within the past four years. A total of 762 Kuwaiti teachers representing 64.2 per cent of the total joined the kindergarten stage. Moreover, 2,892 Kuwaiti teachers joined the three educational stages from 1985 to 1989. The figure represents 31.2 per cent of all Kuwaiti teachers in the ministry. This greatly lifted the ratio of the Kuwaiti teachers at the Education Ministry from 30.1 per cent in 1985 to 38.8 per cent in 1989.

Zakat House

Over KD 60,000 paid to families

THE director of Public Relations and Information at the Kuwait Zakat House Abdul Rahman Al Kandari has said that the house is deeply committed and concerned to spend Zakat money (Islamic alms) in the right Islamic channels, whether by supporting needy families, financing Islamic projects or funding charity enterprises and campaigns.

He told a local daily that the total number of families receiving help from the house during the last year reached 911 and the overall value of money given to these families reached KD601,737, besides irregular payments given once for 6156 families with a total value of KD1,997,000.

He said that the house had endorsed a total of KD248,000 as interest-free loans that went to 156 families, and that 262 others benefitted from KD81,000 taken from the students' funds at the house in addition to KD49,000 paid to 148 families from the prisoners' fund.

Rehabilitation

Kandari said that the house gave primary concern to supporting needy families, and that the number of such families who receive regular help and financial support from the house since its establishment had increased to 400, adding that the house had contributed generously to the training and rehabilitation of many family breadwinners through special-purpose courses five of which had been held during 1989 in which 130 women participated.

He said that the house also proffered financial support to Zakat-collecting committees to enable them to perform their charitable task optimally, and that 15 such committee received a total of KD180,000 during the same year.

He said that the house also supported co-ops and local institutions in their effort to serve the community and that the amount of money so far paid to such institutions reached KD123,000.

He said that the house received moral donations from charity givers and generous donors, individuals and companies, which would later be distributed among the needy, underpaid and people in dire circumstances, adding that a total of 85,000 people benefitted from these moral donations constituting a total 12,216 families.

Meals

The Fitr-Zakat collection project served 3,331 families last year where the total number of individuals reached 23,225, and donations included rice, meat, powder milk and others Kandari said.

He added that the house funded Iftar banquets held in 49 mosques last Ramadan, in which 135,600 meals were offered to fasting worshippers, on an average daily 4520 people and that the total amount of money spent for this purpose reached KD113,000.

He said that under the sacrificial meat distribution project 648 sacrifices were distributed inside Kuwait to 1,174 families, and under the orphan care project, supported by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, 1,667 orphans benefitted from this project, besides a similar project providing financial support to financially unable would-be Hajjis totalling 24.

He said that the house supervised the construction of 1,055 Islamic projects abroad, of which 358 were contracted last year, and the total amount spent on these projects reached KD1,046,000.

He added that these projects included boring wells, setting up shelters constructing mosques, schools, Islamic centres, orphanages and others.



Bella Italia

Chels Manuel and Roberto from Italy are presenting a new style in Italian dining at Kuwait International Hotel until 21st March. It ranges from an unlimited selection of pasta, Mediterranean seafood and desserts. Bellissimo!

Role of Kuwaiti women highlighted

Celebrations to mark Woman's Day

THE head of the Women's Committee at Kuwait Trade Federation Mariam Idris praised the role of the Kuwaiti woman as citizen and mother as a constructive element striving for the country's progress and working to realise its aspirations.

In a speech delivered recently to mark International Women's Day, Idris said that the celebration constitutes an appreciation to the woman and her role in development, freedom, democracy, social

progress and peace.

She added that the committee had been set up by Kuwait Trade Federation in 1982 with the aim of projecting the struggle of women and added that since then the committee is keen to organise the necessary celebrations to mark this occasion.

Solidarity

Meanwhile, the official lauded the role of Palestinian woman in the occupied territories particularly her role together

with man in the national uprising currently prevailing in the Arab occupied territories. She declared the committee's solidarity with the Lebanese who are currently suffering.

She also referred to struggle of the Arab Woman against illiteracy, poverty and social backwardness.

Meanwhile, a member of the Palestinian women's Union in Kuwait Imhal Al Hakem praised the role of Kuwaiti women in

the economic and social development of the country.

Idriss also referred to the struggle by Palestinian women in the occupied territories, pointing out that the women there were participating in demonstrations and positively performing their role in the national economy.

She added that Palestinian women were encouraging their husbands and children to participate in the national uprising.

Separate cassation court to be set up

THE Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs has announced that Kuwait's judiciary is being re-organised and a new law to this effect will be enforced from the start of the new judicial year, on Sept. 1.

Dharr Abdullah Al Othman, made this announcement in an interview with a local daily yesterday.

Othman was quoted as saying that the new law was being enforced in order to keep Kuwait's judiciary abreast with the latest legislations and also the needs of the Kuwaiti community.

The minister also disclosed that, according to the new law, a separate court of cassation with its own prosecution department would also be established. He added that this court would look into appeals made against judgments passed by the Court of Higher Appeal.

The new law, according to the minister, will confirm the judiciary's independence. He added that under this law judges and prosecutors cannot be sacked as disciplinary measures. The new law also cancels the minister's right to warn judges, leaving this to the chairman of respective courts.

Othman said that a new judicial department would, however, be established to look the activities of the judges of the Court of First Instance and also the public prosecutors. He added that the new law, the minister added, the judges and public prosecutors cannot be charged or even interrogated for any violation or crime unless they are caught red-handed. The approval of the Higher Judiciary Council has to be obtained if any action has to be taken against these officials.

Othman said that the new law was being enforced to bridge the loop-holes in the current law, which was enacted in 1959.

Integrated plan for Arab health under study

CAIRO, March 14, (Kuna): Arab health ministers, meeting here for the third day, wound up their 16th session today by adopting a comprehensive strategy on pharmaceutical industry in the Arab world.

Head of Kuwait's delegation to the conference, Director of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialties Dr Abdalla Al Refai told Kuna the ministers were, for the first time, studying "an integrated Arab plan" concerning drug processing and marketing.

Specific proposals in this connection have been put forward by Arab countries. Dr Refai stated, saying that Kuwait's delegation has been effectively contributing to all topics on the agenda, especially with regard to the need for promoting health conditions in Israel-occupied Arab areas and efforts to fight AIDS and other epidemics.

He said Kuwait has been exerting enormous efforts to combat the spread of the killer disease. Aids, through sponsoring several international conferences and symposia.

Initiation
Dr Refai pointed out that the State of Kuwait was behind the idea of initiating the Arab health ministerial council in 1975 to pursue the quest of co-ordination among Arab states in medical fields within the context of the Arab League.

Kuwait has also been offering considerable support for the council's affiliates such as the Kuwait Based Health Documentation Centre and the Damascus-based Arab Council for Medical Specialties, Dr Refai noted.

Head of the Palestinian delegation and president of the Palestinian Red Crescent Dr Fathi Arafat meanwhile urged Arab countries to double their assistance to the intifada to foil Israeli plans of settling thousands of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.



Children rally

The Minister of Interior Sheikh Salam Al Sabah received today a group of children representing the kindergartens of the Capital educational area on the occasion of Childhood Rally, the Public Relations Department of the Interior Ministry reported.

It added that the children presented the minister with bouquets of flowers and art work made by them.

Applied education symposium

Change system to meet national needs: Shahateh

IN the course of a symposium held by the College of Basic Education under the title "Crisis of Applied Education in the Arab World", Dr. Ezzat Shahateh has said that the subject should be discussed from angles of changes in education and social and economic changes as well as in the population structure.

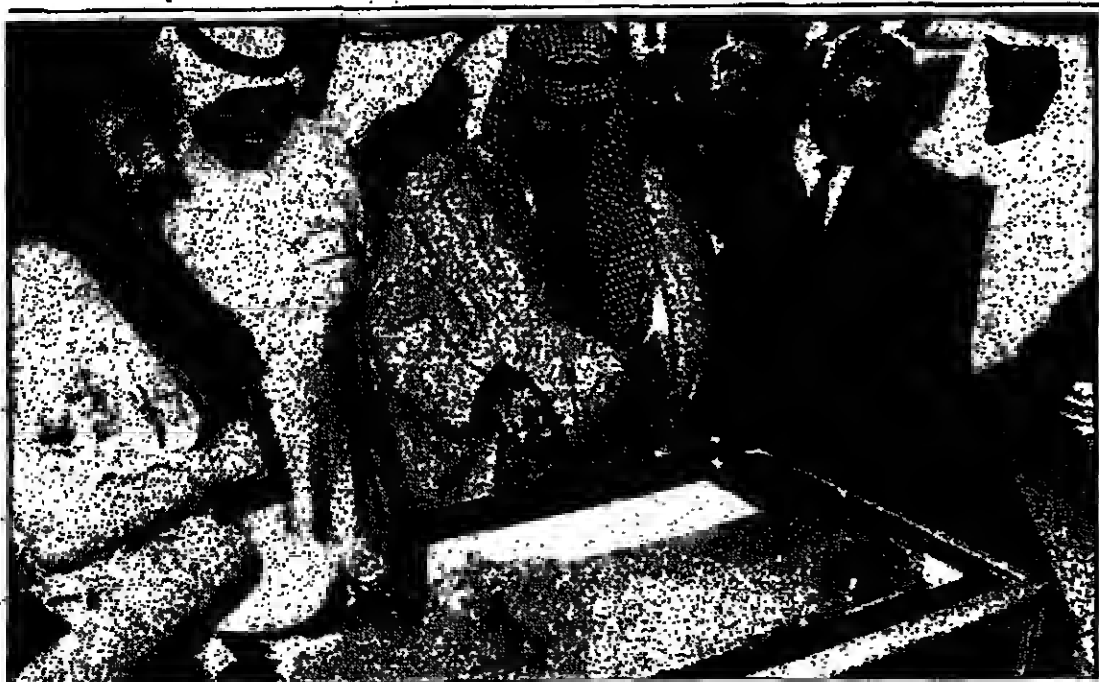
He said that despite the occurring changes in the educational structure and systems in the Arab world, so many gaps have been visibly clear between the educational system and societal requirements, as represented in the distance between curricular content and the requirements of scientific progress.

He commented on the inability of certain societies to meet its development requirements and national needs as a result of the existing gaps between the educational system and the needed cadres.

He said that the crisis was a noticeable one in general but was more so in applied education, due to the successive social and economic crisis suffered by society.

Shahateh said that the crisis was partly the result of a decline in the inclination of youth to applied education, and partly improper admission policy and lack of qualified teachers.

He said another reason was the social attitude towards the need for applied education for girls and the absence of sound planning and accurate estimation of labour market requirements.



Food exhibition

Director General of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duail yesterday inaugurated the 8th Kuwait Food and Agriculture Exhibition at the international fairgrounds.

Shaikh Ibrahim, speaking to reporters, expressed admiration at the exhibition, which will last till March 23.

He stressed that the authority is extending continuous efforts to overcome difficulties facing Kuwaiti farmers.

He said Kuwait has achieved self-sufficiency in poultry products by 46 per cent and another 20 per cent in red meat production.

The inauguration was attended by Tunisian Agriculture Undersecretary Hussein Al Zayani who is visiting the country at the head of an official delegation as well as other officials and diplomats.

No change in school fees, says Sharrah

ASSISTANT Undersecretary for Private Education Dr Yaqoob Al Sharrah has ruled out any intention on the ministry's part to increase tuition fees at private schools, adding that the regulating rules on this matter remains in force as they are.

He told a local daily that fees under the existing system are payable in four instalments over the academic year, but parents who wished to make a full payment on one occasion could do so. Delay in payments however was not condoned.

Sharrah said that not all Arab private schools received government financial support, and therefore parents whose children are students at such schools would have to pay full tuition for the whole academic year.

Adversely, parents whose children studied at schools who received a share of government support, had to make the payments and specified and endorsed by the ministry, since part of the payment is paid by the government.

He pointed out that the transportation fees were also fixed but not included in the tuition amount, as parents could choose whether to use transportation or offer their children a lift to and from school.

He said that the English language course for kindergarten and elementary stage was not an obligatory course and was part of the extracurricular activities of Arabic schools. He, however, said that the prices of the prescribed books were also fixed by the ministry.

He called on all parents to register their children in schools with low student density to contribute to the ministry efforts to eliminate classroom crowding, particularly since the total number of students at a given class must not exceed a specified figure.

Decision

Meanwhile, the director of the Private Education Department Abdullah Al Muthanna said that the last tuition increase was made two years ago, and that no more increases had since been made, adding that the current rates were acceptable and required no revision.

He said the department was ready to consider any complaints made by parents if these were duly reported and signed, adding that it was essential to get a receipt of the payment made with details on what the charges break down to.

He said that the department would refund any extra payment made by parents and get the school in question to collect the payment due only, upon presentation of the payment receipt.

He said that the official tuition rates at schools using the British curriculum will be KD515 for kindergarten, KD 800 for elementary stage, KD 855 for the intermediate stage and 975 for the secondary stage.

Massive rise in lung cancer cases: Momen

More women puffing away

THE secretary-general of the Anti-smoking and Cancer Society Dr Hussein Al Momen said yesterday that 50 per cent of deaths caused by chest diseases in Kuwait is the direct result of smoking.

Kuwait ranks second, in the world, after Greece in the consumption of cigarettes and tobacco and smokers are on the rise in every section of society, Momen said.

Males suffering from lung cancer in Kuwait have increased by 118 per cent in the last years while women patients have increased by 412 per cent, Momen said. Women smokers have also increased from two per cent in 1979 to 12 per cent in 1989 and youth have shown a marked increase from 13 to 45 per cent in the same period. 36 per cent adult males are smokers, according to a study made on 7000 persons in the country, he said.

Dr Momen pointed out that most smokers want to give up the habit but do not know how. He further added that doctors who smoke weaken the national anti-smoking programme.

He pointed out that co-operation between the GCC states in fighting smoking has been fruitful. The joint Gulf programme activated efforts to fight smoking in the GCC states. This programme also urged the World Health Organisation (WHO) to move against smoking in 1976. We are considered the pioneers in anti-smoking campaigns in the world, he said. He added that one of the fruits of the joint programme is the increase in customs taxes on the imports of cigarettes from 4 per cent to 30 per cent. This may increase in the

future to upto 100 per cent, Momen said.

The GCC states are working together to reduce the percentage of tar and nicotine in imported cigarettes. Momen added that it is known that cigarette producers export the worst kind of cigarettes to Third World countries.

Ban

Momen pointed out that Kuwait municipality prohibits cigarette advertisement hoardings in public places. Kuwait TV also does not allow direct ads for cigarettes but there are indirect ads like that which appear in sport matches shown on KTV and in car races sponsored by cigarette companies.

He added that these sport programmes are prohibited on television in Europe, Canada and Australia. He also added that huge ad campaigns are published in Kuwaiti newspapers and magazines which are imported into Kuwait.

Cigarette companies also undertake the dangerous habit of distributing free cigarettes to customers at co-operative societies. Very often it is noticed that even children are handed over packs of cigarettes, as if they were sweets. Momen added that the anti-smoking society is following up these activities but cigarette companies exhibit strong tactics to reach Kuwait society. Citizens and officials of the state must help to stop the activities of these companies, Momen said.

Momen pointed out that many countries in the world have succeeded in banning cigarette advertising and Canada is the

pioneer country in this respect, followed by USA and Australia. He added that the anti-smoking society in Kuwait has mapped out a strategy with WHO to fight smoking. The Council of Ministers issued anti-smoking decisions in Kuwait in 1980 but they were not carried out. The national strategy is to enlighten the public about the dangers of smoking.

Sales

He added that one of the co-operative societies in Kuwait took the initiative of prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to those who are under 18 years old. He added that the local press attacked the issuance of a law prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to children. The local papers wrote about 90 articles against this law even while it was being studied by the Council of Ministers. He added that 50 per cent of sales of cigarettes in Kuwait are from Marlboro and 50 per cent of funds spent on ads for cigarettes in the Gulf area are spent on ads for Marlboro. This increases the number of smokers among youths and also increases the cases of cancer. "This means that we might face an increase in lung cancer infections in Kuwait during the coming ten years," he said.

Momen pointed out that the anti-smoking clinic of the society is open every Monday between 4 to 8.30 pm. The clinic offers services like analyses, examinations and medicines free of charge in co-operation with the Health Ministry. The society's premises is in Sharq, behind Al Amin Hospital. The clinic is ready to help any smoker who wants to stop smoking, he said.

Donors are still few

Indigenous transplant teams inevitable: Jordanian surgeon

By Diana Abou Haidar

Arab Times Staff

DEVELOPING countries should build their own heart transplant teams because this is the only way they could guarantee continuity of such services and, in the long run, standard, said Dr Dawood Hanania, consultant surgeon at Jordan's King Hussein Medical Centre.

"I don't believe in just importing this type of expertise. The Jordanian experience is a good example of developing countries building their own infrastructure," claimed the organ transplant expert who is participating at the 2nd International Congress of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplants that opened Sunday at the Regency Palace Hotel.

He added that heart transplants require a specialised team of cardiologists, surgeons, nurses, laboratory support, psychiatrists, and social workers. "The surgery itself is straightforward, but the social and medical support, in addition to the personality of the patient are as important as the operation itself."

The first heart transplant in Jordan was performed by Hanania in 1985. The patient was a 23-year-old male with end-stage cardiac disease and was not expected to live for more than six months or one year. "This patient works a full day and just got married recently," Hanania said proudly.

"The breakthrough was not in performing the operation itself, but in getting the family of the brain-dead person to donate his heart to the patient. We still have a serious problem with organ donation," stated Hanania who is also a member of the Jordanian parliament.

He added that the support of the Jordanian political system headed by King Hussein was much appreciated. "It was extremely helpful when HH thanked the family that donated their son's heart in public on radio and TV."

But although the Jordanian programme has proven successful with six out of 10 transplant patients alive and well, Hanania believes that it is still too small. "I would have liked to see our programme do at least 30 to 50 such operations a year, but we are finding it difficult because people cannot really accept the concept of brain death and organ donation," he said.

Hanania also believes that more co-operation is needed between organ transplant centres in Arab countries. He called for an Arab computerised organ bank that would provide much needed organs in these countries.

Palestinians want say in PNC elections

KUWAIT, March 14, (Kuna): A number of Palestinian figures living in Kuwait have signed a memorandum addressed to the Palestinian leadership asking for direct, democratic elections for independent members of the Palestine National Council (parliament in exile).

The signatories said that those elections would fall in line with the PNC's basic regulations which stipulate holding them, and also asked for increasing the number of independent members.

They argued that challenges currently facing the Palestinian people and their uprising necessitate strengthening internal Palestinian Front and burying the gap between the PLO's offices, embassies and institutions on the one hand in Palestinian communities world-wide on the other.

Affirming the necessity of such elections to allow nationalist and well-educated figures to participate in the parliamentary process, they expressed conviction that free and democratic elections would greatly boost the PLO in the contemporary world where free and democratic choice was one of its basic principles.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NOTHING is more unjust or capricious than public opinion — William Hazlitt, English essayist (1778-1830).

After years of eyeballing Shooting on the rise in Kashmir

CHAKOTHI CHECKPOINT, Pakistan. (Reuters): Indian and Pakistani troops spend long hours snatching at one another these days at Chakothi Checkpoint in Kashmir, where a narrow river divides disputed territory controlled by each side.

The two armies have been eyeballing each other across the uneasy ceasefire line for years and things normally quieten down each winter when snow caps the Himalayas.

But not this year.

Nearly 200 people have been killed since mid-January in India's state of Jammu and Kashmir, where militants have demanded the Muslim-majority state be given independence or be made part of Pakistan.

Protesters

On the Pakistani side, some 5,000 Kashmiri protesters gathered in Chakothi on Feb 11. When some tried to rush across the rickety suspension bridge spanning the ceasefire line, Indian troops opened fire, killing three people and hurting dozens.

The night before two militants had sneaked over from Pakistan and planted a red and green flag high in a pine tree on the Indian side. The flag represented a militant group seeking an end to Indian rule of Jammu and Kashmir.

Since then Indian soldiers have been trying each night, under cover of darkness, to pull the flag down, but they are driven away every time by bursts of gunfire from Pakistani soldiers across the river.

"They have been firing night and day," Capt. Basit Nawaz Latif, who commands 80 soldiers guarding the Pakistani side, said recently.

"We have to retaliate," the 27-year-old officer said in a bunker with a view of the fluttering flag.

A few minutes earlier, Indian soldiers in bunkers on a snow-topped mountain 500 metres (yards) away had stopped shooting after around five hours of intermittent firing.

"They are after us and we are after them because of this flag incident," Basit said, heading off through a trench ankle-deep in cold rain water.

Honour

"They want to remove it but our people have lost their lives. Because of this we do not want them to take it. It is a matter of honour for both sides."

Pakistan and India have fought two wars over Kashmir. The unrest this year in Jammu and Kashmir, which New Delhi blames on Islamabad, has raised tension between the two nations and sparked fears they could go to war for a third time over the dispute.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Sunday told a meeting called to discuss the unrest that Pakistan was ready for unconditional talks with India to solve the dispute.

When India gained independence from Britain and Pakistan was created in 1947, Kashmir's Hindu prince opted to join India.

But by 1949 Pakistan controlled a third of the territory. The United Nations resolution that year urged a plebiscite to determine Kashmir's status, but it has never been held.

India says the whole state is an integral part of its territory. But Islamabad wants the UN-mandated plebiscite to be held.

Reinforced

Last year UN observers monitoring the 1,400 km (870-mile) ceasefire line counted 600 shooting incidents between the two armies.

An army source in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, or Azad Kashmir, said India had recently reinforced its side of the ceasefire line, occupying bunkers normally left empty. There was also evidence, he said, of Indian forces bringing heavier weapons closer to the border.

So far, the clashes have been confined to heavy machine guns. But diplomats and Pakistani officials fear more incidents like the one in Chakothi last month could spark a wider conflict.

The president of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, has threatened to lead thousands of Kashmiris against the line, but his government in Muzaffarabad is urging restraint.

Army headquarters there have ordered troops to construct barricades to stop further incursions and have asked the government of Azad Kashmir to break up demonstrations before they get too close to the ceasefire line.

But people in Chinari, a village seven km (4.5 miles) from Chakothi, said Pakistani Kashmiris would try it again.

"When the snow melts there will be more fighting. We are preparing our younger generation and we will definitely go there," cloth seller Mir Abdul Latif said.

"We do not accept the ceasefire line," said Mirza Ayyaz, standing beside the grave of his 16-year-old brother Mirza Sajjad Anjum who died at Chakothi.

"We are still five brothers and we are ready to die for the cause of Kashmiri liberation."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 44 BC — Roman dictator Julius Caesar is assassinated.
- 1560 — Huguenot conspiracy at Amboise fails to rescue King Francis II of France from Guise factions, and Prince of Condé subsequently is imprisoned by the Duke of Guise.
- 1603 — Samuel de Champlain, French navigator and explorer, sails for the New World.
- 1776 — US Congress resolves that authority of British crown should be suppressed.
- 1874 — France assumes protectorate over central Indo-China region of Annam, which breaks off vassalage to China.
- 1894 — France and Germany agree on boundaries between French Congo and Cameroons.
- 1903 — British conquest of northern Nigeria is complete.
- 1916 — US forces of 12,000 soldiers under General J. Pershing are ordered to Mexico to capture revolutionary leader Pancho Villa.
- 1921 — Rwanda, East Africa, is ceded to Britain by Belgium.
- 1943 — Japanese planes attack Darwin, Australia, in World War II.
- 1962 — US military training personnel in South Vietnam exchange fire with communist guerrilla forces.
- 1969 — Fighting breaks out between Soviet and Chinese forces along border of those two nations.
- 1973 — US and Soviet envoys begin fourth round of Salt talks in Vienna, Austria, on limiting arms.
- 1987 — Bomb explodes on railway bridge in southern India, sending passenger train crashing into river bed, killing at least 22 people.
- 1988 — Israeli authorities impose travel ban on Palestinians in occupied territories.
- 1989 — Soviet Union's President Mikhail S. Gorbachev calls for rapid measures to ease chronic Soviet food shortages.

Britain takes behind the scenes action

Defence spending under review

LONDON, (AP): Officially, it's business as usual in Britain, but behind the scenes, defense is under review.

A new nuclear arsenal is being built on schedule, defense spending is steady and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has not abandoned the idea that West Germany should install new short-range nuclear missiles.

She remains the most outspokenly hawkish of the NATO leaders, but officials say she has quietly initiated a review of defense policy and spending.

In January, Mrs Thatcher set up an informal group of four cabinet ministers, including herself, to consider the issue.

"There's an acceptance there will be change," said a senior government source, speaking privately, but there is an sign of swift cuts and no talks of dismantling Britain's independent nuclear arsenal.

Reaffirmed

Britain reaffirmed in January it will replace its aging submarine-based nuclear missiles with a \$10 billion US Trident system, as planned, and military spending will remain at about 4 per cent of gross national products through 1992.

Thatcher is resisting pressure for disarmament following the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

"We must keep up the level of our defenses, both conventional and nuclear weapons, and not make changes until they are agreed with NATO and the conventional forces in Europe," arms reduction talks in Vienna, she told Parliament in February.

She was lukewarm about President George Bush's proposal Jan 31 to reduce US and Soviet forces in Central Europe to 195,000 each.

Opposition parties accuse her of trying to invent new threats or fretting about the resurgence of old ones, like a united Germany.

"The British government, alone of governments in NATO and the Warsaw Pact, seems actively to resent the challenge presented by the ending of the cold war," said Gerald Kaufman, foreign affairs spokesman for the opposition Labour Party.

Caution

Most Britons apparently share Mrs Thatcher's caution. A national opinion poll in January indicated 63 per cent believed Britain should not reduce military spending despite the changes in the Soviet bloc, and 76 per cent felt Britain should retain at least some nuclear weapons as long as the Soviets do.

Defense analysts foresee a cut of up to one-third in the 155,000-member army, including the phased withdrawal of many of the 66,700 British soldiers in West Germany, the largest foreign contingent after the Americans.

Other likely targets for cutbacks are the four-nation European fighter aircraft and the British-made Challenger 2 tank.

Such cuts will cost jobs and could have a psychological effect on a nation that, despite having lost



"We the People, in order to form a more perfect union..."

an empire, still sees itself as a middle-ranked world power.

Even the conservative Daily Telegraph recognizes change must come.

"A review of Britain's continental commitment, the cornerstone of defense policy since 1945, has become inevitable," it said editorially. "The Germans do not want to us any more."

Surviving Beirut-style

BEIRUT, (Reuters): They clutch bottles to find their way up darkened stairways, crowd artists in the water, dial one number for an hour to make a telephone call and jump from their seats at the sound of a slamming door.

That is how Beirutis go through the day. At night, they dance the lambada, as if they have worries, at nightclubs to rock and pop music and sleep at restaurants serving a wide variety of Oriental and Western food.

On their way home they drive through deserted, pitch dark streets and stop at scores of army checkpoints.

"Don't ask how we survive, we don't even know," I think we have become numb," said Nabila Sada, a University student.

In the Christian half of the capital, life is more grim.

Destroyed

More than a month of inter-Christian artillery battles have destroyed entire neighbourhoods, killing more than 800 people and forcing thousands to flee to Muslim west Beirut.

The Christian heartland, previously dubbed by Lebanese as their Monte Carlo, is like a ghost town at night. The streets are divided by large earth-barricades.

Beirutis say they are desperate, and then they show it like never before in 15 years of civil war.

Garbage piles litter street corners, power generators in the streets make deafening sounds and battered cars honk constantly to get through chaotic traffic jams.

A chronic power cut had deprived them of electricity, damage to pipes has cut water supplies, and inter-Christian battles have destroyed most of the telephone lines.

The slamming of doors sends their hearts racing for fear it could be artillery shelling.

When they listen to news broadcasts on radio stations they shake their heads in dismay at continued political debates that they know will not end the violence plaguing their lives.

Planning

"We spend our time plotting how to survive and wash our clothes... I have not read a book in more than three months because I am busy trying to survive," said a university professor.

A middle-aged woman waited outside the office of a local militia official in West Beirut for five hours to complain that his men broke into her flat and stole a butane gas cylinder.

"Had they stolen jewellery or money I would not have complained, but where am I going to find gas?" she said.

An Israeli blockade on a southern Lebanese refinery has caused a shortage of gas supplies.

But supermarket shelves are still stocked with caviar, champagne, expensive cheese and wine.

Display windows at boutiques, hidden behind sandbags, shows a colourful variety of the latest in fashion for both women and men, but owners say business is bad.

"The Lebanese have always been fashion-conscious, but now they have to spend their money on buying power generators and digging wells, not on clothes," one owner said.

Those who have decided to stay can only try to survive — Beirut style.

Distorting Islam

SIR: In reference to the article that appeared in the March 9 issue of Arab Times, which dealt with the subject of polygamy women's rights, and one woman's campaign in Mauritania.

The woman, whose name is Mariem Bint Ahmed Aisha, is the director of the women's affairs department of the government of Mauritania, and professes herself to be a good Muslim. She claims that her "anti-polygamy" crusade is not directed against Islam, but that she just wants to improve the status of women in Mauritania.

Without knowing anything about the social situation of Mauritania I will refrain from commenting on it, one way or the other. But I will definitely comment on the incorrect ideas this woman has come up with, and on how short-sighted she is in the face of the total picture, based on the facts of Islam.

If this woman is fighting for women's rights, she has missed the mark by a mile. There is no other doctrine, religion, or state that gives women as many rights as Islam does. Islam introduced sanctioned rights for women, from every possible angle, at a time when there were none at all, or had there ever really been. Islam made women first-class citizens, in every respect, when for centuries the twisted misrepresentations of Judaism, Christianity, and all other religions, monothestic or otherwise, had been persecuting women in ways unthinkable.

Those Islamic rights were revealed by God to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) more than 1,400 years ago, in the middle of pagan Arabia. Until the present day there has not been, nor is there now, any other institution, be it religious, governmental or otherwise, that has done better. We cannot take bits of Islamic law and play around with them, taking them out of context, and still think we know what Islamic law is all about. We must take the entire revelation as a whole and then make our judgement, and who is better to judge than God, isn't it He who created us and showed us our nature? So it stands to reason that He is the wisest and best prepared to decide what is good for us, humanity, as a whole.

I will now start speaking from a woman's point of view, as the subject I am dealing with is women's rights and I am a woman. The article doesn't really say what Mariem is trying to get, specifically, other than abolishing polygamy, though she does mention certain things she apparently feels usurp women's rights and equality. Some of the things she mentioned are: the separation of boys and girls at schools, arranged marriages, the fact that women aren't allowed in the military or police forces in Mauritania, the practice of polygamy, and, apparently, she is against Islamic dress as well (based on her reported way of dressing), she says if these (and other things) were changed it would result in women gaining their "rights" as she puts it.

Military

First of all, women are allowed by Islam to take part in military expeditions, etc., in many situations, though they should never be forced to do so, it should be an issue decided entirely dependent on the individual situation, so this is an issue of Mauritania, not Islam. About the other things she is trying to change, in actuality, it is just these things which give women their rights (among other things).

The first practice Mariem condemns is separation of the sexes at school. From an Islamic point of view, it is improper to have boys and girls together on a close basis in any situation once those children have reached a certain age; and the definite cut-off point would be at puberty. As far as mixing in schools — it is better not to do it, from the beginning.

This reasoning is not based on backward thinking, but actually, it is a progressive viewpoint. There are new studies (done by non-Muslim sociologists and psychologists) that show clearly that when the sexes are separated in classes they do much better grade-wise, and they also found it amazing that even from a psychological standpoint the students who were involved in such studies were much more relaxed, and thus excelled and matured better than the students attending mixed classes.

The next practices she dislikes and is fighting to abolish are arranged marriages and the idea of women staying home to take care of their children. Again, from an Islamic viewpoint these are things to be condoned and not to be thrown aside so quickly. As far as

arranged marriages go, let's take a look at what happens when marriages aren't arranged. In the case that the marriageable young people are left to their own devices to find marriage partners, we can easily see what the result is of such. Just take a look at Europe and America. What we find is that the young men and women go to excessive extremes in compromising themselves, their morality and their chastity. All this is in the name of progress. The result of such behaviour is obvious, and we may witness it first hand. Very quickly the seeking of a life-mate because free trial of the opposite sex, and then there is the widespread problem of divorce, illegitimate pregnancies, venereal diseases, and what has become a social problem here, spinsterhood, and extra-marital affairs.

Once the girl is tested outside of marriage she is no longer of value and is discarded, so, where is the progress here? But, when marriages are arranged Islamically all of these problems disappear. We must also note here that when we speak of arranged marriage we don't mean "forced." In Islam neither the woman nor the man is forced to marry against their wills.

Polygamy

Next, the main complaint of Mariem, polygamy, or as it should be called, polygyny. She states in the article that polygyny is "very retrograde practice that doesn't reflect our modern age." On the contrary! If we take all the facts together and look around at the world around us in this "modern age," the practice of polygyny, which is a man having more than one wife, is actually the answer to the problem. We should note here that before Islam, in Judaism, Christianity, and other religions, especially the paganistic ones, the practice of polygamy was widespread, within such marriages the women had no rights and the men would sometimes marry hundreds of women — leaving the wives who were "out-of-favour" to moulder on a shelf somewhere, without any recourse, and with no way to acquire a divorce or to remarry.

Lastly, she in her own example, is also against the Islamic dress for women, as is noted at the end of the article. It states that Mariem had caused a stir by appearing on television with her Islamic cover modified, apparently she had revealed something or other that is normally covered by the hijab. Well, this is the final step to strip a woman of her respect. Obviously, she thinks that if she uncovers her hair or her body she will be gaining some kind of rights. The only right she gains is the right to fall into the same trap as the women from other religions, like Judaism and Christianity, who have slowly, over the years, taken off their covers. Surprise! That's right folks, those women also were ordered to cover with the "bijab" in their respective revealed books. (They may look it up right now if they like). But, unlike Muslims they have discarded the orders (although God has never given them permission to do so).

Mia Pozzo, Safat.

Freight charge increase

SIR: The United Malayalee Organisation, a co-ordination council of 10 Malayalee organisations has appealed to the Indian Civil Aviation Minister Mohammed Arif Khan to re-consider the government order to increase the freight charges of perishable items levied by Air India by 30 per cent.

The revised charges will be implemented with effect from March 15, 1980, according to reliable sources.

In a memorandum addressed to the minister, UMO stated that such an increase of freight charges will cause the price increase of Indian vegetables in the Gulf markets. UMO pointed out that similar products from other countries available at competitive prices will replace Indian products, unless suitable steps are taken to maintain the balance of prices.

UMO also mentioned that the Indian vegetables mostly consumed by large number of Indian expatriates in the Gulf region fetch considerable amount of foreign exchange for the government of India. On this aspect UMO requested the Indian authority to take up necessary action and withdraw the mandatory order increasing the freight charge by Air India.

Aby Thomas Varikkad, General Secretary, UMO.

Traffic violations

SIR: I would like once again to draw the attention of esteemed authorities of this country to the traffic situation on the streets and roads of Kuwait. Undoubtedly, much has been written and said on the subject.

However, in my opinion, nobody looked at the fact that by enforcing the traffic rules this country would benefit greatly, and not only in intangible terms of reducing the number of traffic accidents and their victims.

Why, with at least two thirds of the drivers blatantly disregarding traffic rules and regulations a few strategically positioned traffic policemen would do absolutely wonders for the country's economy. And no increase in the force is necessary. The officers that are now located in desolate spots of the highways, or gazing at bottlenecks on some roundabouts could be moved, for example, to major intersections. The income from even a slight increase in the fine for a driver running a turn from the wrong lane would soon rival the oil revenues. And I am not even touching on many other aspects like running red lights, exceeding the speed limits or dangerous driving. Don't take away their licence — fine them, and there will be a great new source of income for social programmes.

Nina Ghim, Safat.

Bus route 33

SIR: I appreciate the efforts made by KPTC in introducing some new routes in view of growing demand for public transport. Route 33 is one of them. But to my surprise, this route is very complicated and time consuming and strange enough to say like merry-go-round, since it runs from lane after lane. It appears KPTC has gone to the extent of reaching its every commuter at his doorstep, thereby totally ignoring the time factor involved in the journey. Moreover, besides running late to late, it tries to satisfy the commuters going to Safat bus depot, then again the commuters going to Darwaza before coming to Shara Jahra (GPO). As a result the bus takes 30/40 minutes to reach from Faiba to Shara Jahra.

Secondly, a commuter cannot rely on the buses plying on this route because the interval of time is very poor and irregular. Most of the times, it keeps the commuters stranded over more than 40 minutes. This makes this route very irritating, and I could see the poor helpless commuters complaining almost every day. Frankly speaking, travelling on this route is a sheer waste of time. The problem is, KPTC tried to please all commuters by this route and eventually ended up in pleasing none.

I request KPTC to re-arrange this route and make it more simple and viable so that the commuters can always rely on and of course can really be proud of your services.

Peter Colaco, Safat.

Devalued values

SIR: It is indeed a tragedy of our times that the values of morality and healthy social living stand have devalued. Man is more concerned with the devaluation of currencies, shares, stocks and debentures, than the devaluation of his own character. New materialistic values of his own character. New materialistic values have been introduced and utter selfishness takes care of crass materialism at the cost of one's conscience and morality.

For the achievement of "so-called" higher standards of living, people have to and are actually paying a heavy price. They have to abandon family ties, friendship and decent, closely-knit society where people would care for one another. Because now the policy: you scratch my back, I scratch yours, is prevalent.

The good old dictum of: honesty is the best policy or love thy neighbour as thyself, are forgotten clichés and in time may become extinct.

Most of us achieved very high levels of self-centredness that we do not even care for other members of society but are interested only in self-betterment.

How can a person account for man's utter greed when he is hell bent to destroy the young children (the citizens of tomorrow's world) through cheap printed

pornographic literature, films, drugs? Utter devaluation of young children takes place when they are exposed to such trash. But who is there to put an end to all this rubbish?

Through cinema, very wrongly given the epithet of cheap entertainment, the film-makers make financial fortunes but ruin the morals of budding flowers (the innocent children). The entertainments provided are literally cheap and decadent.

In the mad race towards multiplying the material acquisitions, people get blinded by the dazzle and are unable to perceive a simple decent social life where the various members would be considered towards one another and work actively for the common welfare.

A small child told me once: God made man, Man made money. Money made man mad. This is quite true but with a reservation that it is man's own weakness which permits money to make him mad.

When international currencies are devalued, the government sometimes take steps towards their revaluation. But when Man's own basic values are devalued, only God's grace can help him to get out of the mess in which he himself has run into.

Vijay Puri, Safat.

Approb activities

SIR: I have noticed since the last few weeks reports on lots of activities to be organised by Approb. For we Pakistanis, it's a matter of pride, I believe that anyone who does not love his home and country cannot love humanity in general. If our desire is to be virtuous, then we should try to love our country, but we should not be so blind with patriotism that we can't face reality. We should always consider wrong to be wrong — no matter who does it or says it. I sincerely hope that Approb follows this advice and sets an example for the nation.

Since my childhood, I have been reading and hearing about Allama Iqbal, Javed Nama, one of his poems addressed to his son, was a part of our school syllabus, who is now going to visit Kuwait. This accomplished and virtuous son of Dr Iqbal is internationally respected and well known in the Islamic world. I recently got hold of his personal achievements, which I thought might be interesting for thousands of your readers from the subcontinent who are anxiously looking forward to his visit.

Javed Iqbal, as I know him, was Chief Justice, Punjab High Court, and elevated as Justice of the Supreme Court in 1966. He also represented Pakistan as a delegate to United Nations in 1960/62 and 1977. Kuwait, being the current chairman of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) under His Highness The Amir, should be happy to see him here being the elected member of the governing council of the Centre for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage. He was the elected vice-chairman of the governing council.

Dr Iqbal has also shown keen interest on the plight of Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria and he was one of the keynote speakers to attend a conference on the subject organised by Istanbul Bar Association.

The seminar organised by Approb with Dr Iqbal and his wife Nuzra Iqbal's participation is extraordinary and is a commendable attempt to educate our people on the Pakistan Movement.

If we can change the mentality of our people, then the country's political order or its economy can easily be corrected. There is no better person than Dr and Mrs Javed Iqbal to handle this task with sincerity of purpose and absolute integrity.

My friends and I, through your newspaper, wish Dr and Mrs Javed Iqbal a warm welcome and a happy stay in Kuwait as a guest of Approb.

Shagufta Nasrin & Susan Coelho, Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Hostages free when it suits Iran: Carter

CAIRO, March 14, (UPI): Former US president Jimmy Carter said yesterday that he believed Western hostages held in Lebanon will be released when Iran feels their freedom serves its national interests.

Carter also said he thought Syrian President Hafez Assad, Iran's only Arab ally, had a minimal influence in securing the release of the 18 hostages, who include eight US nationals.

On the current political crises in Israel, Carter said lasting peace would be best served if either a strong Likud, or a strong Labour government were to emerge after probable elections, rather than a stalemated coalition.

"In my opinion, I think that Iran does indeed play a substantive role in how long the hostages will be held," Carter told reporters after meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"And my belief is that when and if Iran believes it is in its best interest to use its influence for the release of the hostages, they will be released... (but) I don't know when," Carter said.

"I think Syria has a minimal influence on when the hostages might be released," he said. "I think President Assad has made very strong efforts in the past to seek the release of the hostages."

"Even if the Likud should triumph and

have a clear control of the Israeli government, I think this might be better for a strong mutual peace they would have (under) a stalemated coalition government," he said.

Carter, currently on a four-nation Middle East peace tour which will also take him to Syria, Jordan, and Israel, said he will discuss the hostages issue in the capitals he visits.

Carter served as US president when Iranian radicals stormed the US embassy in Tehran in 1979 and held embassy staff, including 62 Americans, hostage until the election of Ronald Reagan two years later. He also played a key mediating role in

the 1978 Camp David accords, which led to the 1979 Egypt-Israeli peace treaty. He arrived in Cairo on Monday.

The former US president said he believed there was still a good chance US-sponsored efforts to achieve Palestinian-Israeli dialogue might get off the ground, despite the fall of Israel's coalition government.

"The basic parameters have been worked out. There's agreement among the Palestinians, the Egyptians, the Americans and, I think, more than half the Israelis. So I believe it's going to happen, (although) it may be delayed to some degree."

Arabs decide not to press for Security Council meeting

Contacts under way to reconcile resolutions on influx

UNITED NATIONS, March 14, (Agencies): The Arab states have decided not to press now for a meeting of the Security Council on Russian-Jewish emigration to the occupied territories, Arab diplomats said last night.

Palestine Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi is expected here shortly to take part in further consultations on the emigration question, Abulhassan confirmed.

One reason for the delay, Abulhassan said, are the political developments in Israel.

While he didn't rule out a council meeting in the near future, he said "it won't be this week."

Meanwhile, Security Council negotiations were under way to reconcile US, Soviet and Arab draft resolutions which criticise Israel's settlement of some Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories.

The Soviet Union, which originally requested the meeting, Arab and most non-aligned states have denounced Israel's settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories, saying it changes the demographics of a disputed area claimed by Palestinians as a future state, increases tension and makes Middle East peace settlement very difficult.

The United States, Israel's main ally, also is opposed to Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza.

But the US criticism in its resolution is mild, expressing only "regret" at the new settlement, while the Soviet criticism is stronger, saying the council "deplores the illegal practices" of Israel in the new settlements.

Both US and Soviet drafts call upon the government of Israel to end the settlement of Soviet Jews in the territories occupied since the 1967 Middle East war.

The language of an Arab draft resolution condemned the settlements and was more strident, diplomats said. A British resolution was said to attempt to bridge the gap between various resolutions, seeking to avert a US veto of a resolution that it might deem too harsh.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said that a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate a big immigration from the Soviet Union — a reference to the occupied territories which has enraged Arabs.

Israeli diplomats said only a tiny fraction of Soviet Jews — 126 in 1989 — settled in the territories and said that in the future only a very small number probably would move there.

In Tunis, Arab League ministerial council concluded its 93rd session yesterday after discussing emigration of the Soviet Jews and the US threats against Libya.

The Jewish agency might meet difficulties all over the world, which are expected to raise \$200 million a year," said Gad Ben Ari, spokesman for the Jewish agency.

Benazir denies role in putsch

ISLAMABAD, March 14, (Agencies): Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto today denied Kabul's charges that her military intelligence service was involved in last week's coup in Afghanistan but said the putsch offered a chance for a bold peace initiative.

"The coup was sudden and unexpected," she said. "Not only was it not predicted by our own security services but it was not predicted by any of the security services of the world," she said. "It took everyone by surprise."

No Pakistani agencies or Afghan rebel groups based in Pakistan had anything to do with the putsch, Bhutto said. She said the Defence Minister Shaukat Tanzeel, she said.

Speaking at her first major news conference for six months, the prime minister said last week's events exploded claims by Afghan President Najibullah that he had mass support.

"Not only does he not have the support of the people of Afghanistan... his former colleagues are turning against him because they see in him the main obstacle to the restoration and restoration of peace in Afghanistan," she said.

Despite Najibullah's victory over Tanzeel's rebels, the prime minister said, he had emerged much weaker and that provided fresh opportunities for a political settlement.

"I think this is a time for a bold new initiative," she said. "It is a time for not only Pakistan to stop playing favourites, it is also time for the Soviet Union to stop playing favourites."

"If everyone agrees to turn towards the people of Afghanistan and ask the people of Afghanistan what they want I am sure we could work out a settlement."

Benazir told reporters Pakistan had begun consultations with its allies about an initiative but did not spell out what she had in mind.

"Pakistan is in touch with its allies on this question. We are in touch with the United States, Iran, Saudi Arabia and other countries because we would like to work out a system whereby elections are held for a credible, representative and independent Afghanistan."

Benazir denied any knowledge of Pakistani efforts to pressure the rebel leadership to back Tanzeel, but accepted that her military intelligence chief and army chief of staff regularly meet with Mujahideen.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil today accused Pakistan of organising the failed coup against President Najibullah last week and said he had written to the UN secretary general with proof.

"In my letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar I have drawn his attention to evidence that Pakistan actually organised the coup," Wakil told a news conference in Kabul.

Afghanistan is ready to destroy its huge stockpiles of Soviet-supplied arms if the United States and other countries stop supporting Muslim rebels, Wakil said.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and 11 injured today when Mujahideen rebels fired rockets on an industrial park on the outskirts of Kabul, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the Kabul government reported that rebels had attacked the strategic city of Kabul and also were fighting government forces around Jalalabad.

Wakil lashed out at Pakistan today, accusing the neighbouring Muslim nation of "masterminding" the coup attempt. Pakistan, which allows the Afghan rebels to operate from its territory, has denied similar charges from Kabul officials in the past.

"Afghanistan cannot remain indifferent toward such open, vivid and violent interference by Pakistan authorities," Wakil said.

He contended that Pakistan's intelligence agencies planned the coup with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a Muslim fundamentalist leader of one of the mujahideen groups. After the coup attempt, Tanzeel fled to Pakistan and is said to be negotiating with Hekmatyar's supporters.



Former US President Carter (left) with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere (right) just before a meeting at the Presidential Palace in Cairo on Tuesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Velayati arrives in Geneva along with prisoners

Iran frees Egyptian PoWs

GENEVA, March 14, (Reuters): Twenty Egyptian prisoners of the Gulf war flew from Tehran to freedom today and walked hesitantly down the ramp of an Iran Air plane in Geneva as if unsure they were really being set free.

But the prisoners, dressed in gray prison camp uniforms, soon broke into smiles.

They were flying later to Cairo under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Lebanese Muslim fundamentalist Sheikh Saeed Shaaban, wearing a brown robe and a white turban, walked off the plane ahead of the prisoners.

An Iranian official told Reuters the Sunni cleric, who has close ties with Tehran, mediated the deal.

The prisoners looked to be between 25 and 50 years old. One older man had to be helped down the ramp by other prisoners.

The Egyptian fought for Iraq

against Iran in the eight-year Gulf war. An unknown number are still being held prisoner.

The ICRC says that because Iran has denied it access to non-Iraqi prisoners it cannot be sure that some of the Egyptians were not simply workers seized in border areas during the fighting.

Iran considers them to be mercenaries, not prisoners of war, who should have been sentenced to death.

"However... Iran on humanitarian grounds treated them as PoWs," the Iranian news agency Irna quoted a member of Iran's committee of prisoners of war as saying.

The 20 prisoners released today represent less than one per cent of the 100,000 prisoners held by the two sides, with neither Iran nor Iraq making any more than token repatriations.

"The prisoners of war are hostages of politics, which from our point of view is a scandal," ICRC

spokeswoman Marjolaine Martin told Reuters.

Under the 1949 Geneva Conventions the two sides should have released all prisoners immediately after the end of fighting — in this case the UN-brokered ceasefire of August 1988.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived on the same plane but refused all comment. He is in Geneva to address the UN-sponsored conference on disarmament.

The ICRC interviewed the 20 Egyptians in Tehran last night to be sure they wanted to return. Egypt and Iran have no diplomatic ties.

ICRC staff in Geneva had no information on how long the prisoners had been held or under what conditions, and what they were doing when they were seized.

One ex-prisoner told Reuters as he was hustled away that he had been held for three years.

Israel not interested in US missile offer

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 14, (AP): Israel is not interested in purchasing a new air defence missile that has been offered by the US Pentagon, an Israeli military official said today.

The official, who insisted on anonymity, described the American-made patriot missile as "one of the best anti-aircraft units" in the world. But, he added, as an anti-ballistic missile system "it only gives limited solution to the missile problem, so we don't intend to buy at this stage."

"We are looking at other systems," he said, but would not elaborate. Israel currently is working with the United States to develop an anti-missile system called the Arrow. The United States is contributing about 80 per cent of the \$158 million development cost under its strategic defence initiative, or "star wars."

Surface-to-surface missiles were widely used in the Iran-Iraq war, raising fears in Israel that they could be employed against the Jewish state in a future conflict.

In the region, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Egypt have missiles supplied by the Soviet Union, and Iraq has announced it is making its own ballistic missiles. Saudi Arabia has missiles obtained from China.

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney yesterday told reporters the United States was considering the sale of patriots to Israel.

The patriot is a 17-foot (5.18 metres) long missile used by the US army to protect ground installations. They have been deployed in Europe to replace an earlier air defence missile, the Hawk.

Fahd donates \$1m to US illiteracy fund

WASHINGTON, March 14, (UPI): King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who contributed \$1 million to Nancy Reagan's war on drugs, also donated \$1 million to Barbara Bush's campaign against illiteracy, officials said.

Fahd made his gift to the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy on Sept 29, 1989, through the community Foundation of Greater Washington, which helps administer the fund, financial records show.

Foundations officials said the king asked nothing in return for his gift, which was made at about the same time that the first lady helped open a Saudi Arabian exhibit in her and her husband's adopted hometown of Houston.

"We are not at all sensitive about the contribution. We are grateful he came forward to help us," said Joan Abrahamson, chairwoman of the year-old foundation.



Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Housing David Levy speaks at a cornerstone-laying ceremony yesterday for a new Jewish neighbourhood in Arab East Jerusalem. Levy said that by 1991, 8,000 units would be built on the hillside facing two Arab villages. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cheney tells Tel Aviv

Israel can count on US

WASHINGTON, March 14, (KUNA): The US Secretary of Defence, Dick Cheney, yesterday told Israel that "as we seek to promote a realistic peace process, Israel must know that it can count on the United States."

In a major policy address on the US-Israeli security relationship to a meeting of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA), Cheney expressed his belief that "risks for peace can only be taken if Israel is confident about its security and the US commitment to it."

Cheney's statement and appearance was scheduled before the break-up of the Israeli coalition government yesterday, but on two occasions during his speech he sought to assure Israel of the American commitment while also expounding the nature and details of the US-Israeli relationship.

Amid much applause from the Jewish-American audience, Cheney asserted at another point, "let me assure you that this country's bedrock commitment to Israel's security is absolutely unshakable. And I mean absolutely. We have and always

will have a special relationship with Israel. I particularly want to say that in light of today's news about resignations from Israel's cabinet."

The defence secretary spoke in details about the US-Israeli security relationship, citing figures and programmes that are underway jointly by the two allies.

According to Cheney, "the most important form of co-operation between the two countries involved shared information and planning."

He confirmed the generally-held belief that the two countries strategic ties "have become closer than they ever were in the 35 previous years since Israeli independence."

He said, for example, the regular working groups that meet from the two sides, "tend to insulate long-term relationships from the disagreements that are bound to show up now and then among friends."

More concretely, Cheney noted the fact that Israel is slated to get 35 per cent of the adminis-

tration's fiscal 1991 budget request for security assistance.

In addition, Israel is due to begin taking delivery on its third order of F-16 aircraft in 1991 "and we expect the Israeli defence force to be getting its first Apache attack helicopters soon," the defence secretary declared.

The US defence secretary further expected US procurements of Israeli defence products to increase in the 1990s. These procurements, by his own count, have skyrocketed from a level of \$31 million in 1984 to more than \$350 million in 1989.

The US also has a number of joint research and development projects under way with Israel, including several that are part of the US Strategic Defence Initiative or SDI, Cheney noted.

"It is hard to look at the Middle East without worrying about the potential spread of weapons of mass destruction. We have reason to be concerned that some states in the region may, over time, develop the missile capacity to deliver chemical or biological weapons."

Woman 'terrorist' trained by PFLP: claim

ANKARA, March 14, (UPI): A suspected woman terrorist captured in an Istanbul shootout on the weekend told police she and two other left-wing militants were trained by Palestinians in Lebanon before they slipped into Turkey through Syria, police said.

Basay Saygili, captured in a shootout after she and two other left-wing militants attempted to steal a car, told police under interrogation that she received training in the use of arms in a Palestinian camp in Lebanon.

Saygili, who claimed to be a member of the banned Turkish Communist Party, said her group of three suspected terrorists were planning to attack several targets in Istanbul, but police did not specify the targets.

The woman was one of a three-member group who were stopped after they stole a car in Istanbul's Zeytinburnu district Saturday, but sped away when police challenged them.

The group was cornered an hour later in the affluent Atakoy district, and engaged in another shootout with the police, finally tossing grenades and making a run for it.

Saygili was injured in the attempt and captured, but of the two women in the group one ran into a nearby apartment and took three people hostage, while a third (earlier said to have been captured) got away.

The alleged terrorist in the apartment was finally injured and captured Sunday when a special anti-terrorist squad burst in and shot him, rescuing a remaining hostage after two of the other hostages escaped.

Saygili, who is of Kurdish origin, told police the camp in Lebanon where she and the other two were trained was run by George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

They stayed there six months and received training in the use of arms and explosives, map-reading and driving.

Jordan technology group develops Fast Attack Vehicle to counter armoured intrusions

AMMAN, March 14, (Reuters): A group of bedouins from Jordan's legendary desert patrol are resting their camels while they roar across sand and rock in what looks like a stripped-down beach buggy.

The buggy is a lightweight Fast Attack Vehicle designed in Amman at the Jordan Technology Group (JTG), a private firm that is trying to put the country on the world's high-technology map.

JTG's chief executive Amin Badr Al Din says the vehicle was partly inspired by victories scored by Chadian soldiers

using Toyota pickups against Libyan tanks in the North African desert.

"The Fast Attack Vehicle is a cost-effective way of fighting armoured intrusions," he told Reuters. "It's low to the ground, fast, highly manoeuvrable and has a low infra-red signature."

In computer simulations the FAV has been "dropped" from heights of up to 20 metres (66 feet) to determine its suitability for parachute drops and its resilience to some of the toughest desert terrain in the world.

JTG has now asked the desert patrol to put two prototypes through their

paces.

Badr Al Din said the computer-designed vehicle could be fitted with machine guns, anti-tank missiles or anti-aircraft missiles and could also be used for border surveillance.

The desert patrol, the air force and the special forces have all shown interest in the car, he said.

Applied Engineering, the firm which designed it, is a tenant of JTG, which provides office space, start-up money and other services to young entrepreneurs.

It hopes to start production in June

using parts made by local sub-contractors and imported air-cooler engines.

JTG, which has a majority stake in the venture, wants to secure a niche for Jordan as a manufacturing base for US arms companies interested in the competitive Middle East market.

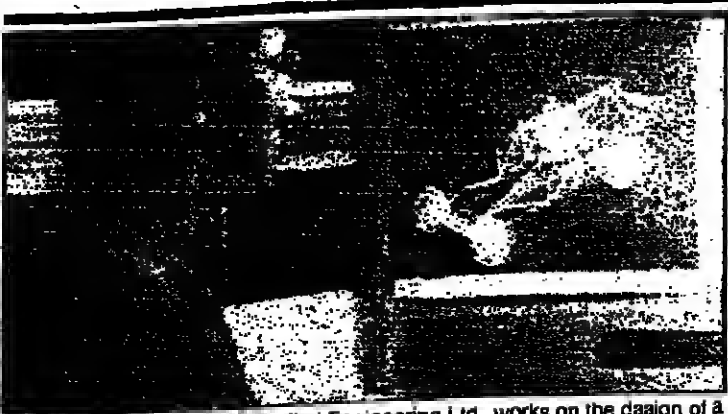
"Changes in Eastern Europe and US budget constraints mean US military suppliers have to look beyond the United States and Europe," Badr Al Din said.

"The market for conventional arms in this region is still buoyant, so there is

scope for them to consider teaming and sub-contracting work in Jordan, where costs are very low particularly after the depreciation of the dinar," he added.

JTG was set up in 1988 with a capital of 1.3 million dinars (\$1.9 million) to promote Jordan as an Arab centre for technology transfer and maintenance services.

It wants to attract firms in the Far East who could use Jordan, which has favourable trade and tariff agreements with the United States and Europe, as a base for re-exports.



Fawaz Zoubi, manager of Applied Engineering Ltd., works on the design of a fast attack vehicle being developed in Amman under the wing of the Jordan Technology Group. (Reuters wirephoto)

Crayon Box

a	b	c	d	e	f	g
97 - 15	62 - 52	38 - 5	87 - 11	98 - 17	35 - 12	65 - 10
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
29 - 15	46 - 30	99 - 14	84 - 11	73 - 3	89 - 15	44 - 12

Just for laughs!

My brother said, "I've found an easy way to rob a bank."
I said, "What's that?"
He said, "Do a safe robbery."

I said to my uncle, "Let's have a game of snooker."
He said, "We can't. There's an elephant on the table."
I said, "I can't see an elephant."
He said, "You wouldn't. It's wearing a green hat."

My uncle went into this shoeshop. He said, "I want some soft shoes for my elephant."

The girl said, "What's an elephant want soft shoes for?"

My uncle said, "He wants to sneak up on the mice."

My brother said, "I've been trying to annoy my pet snake but I can't do it." I said, "Why?"s that?" He said, "I can't find a leg to pull."

Wordsearch **SPORTS PAGE**

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

•

H A S E L U D E H C S S S
B I E L F E D Y O T C E T
N O G L A I A L R I U R A
S A O H T N L G P O E O N
C G C O S E O M U T T C D
I O R I G C Y I R E E S I
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Monal

Writer's Handbook

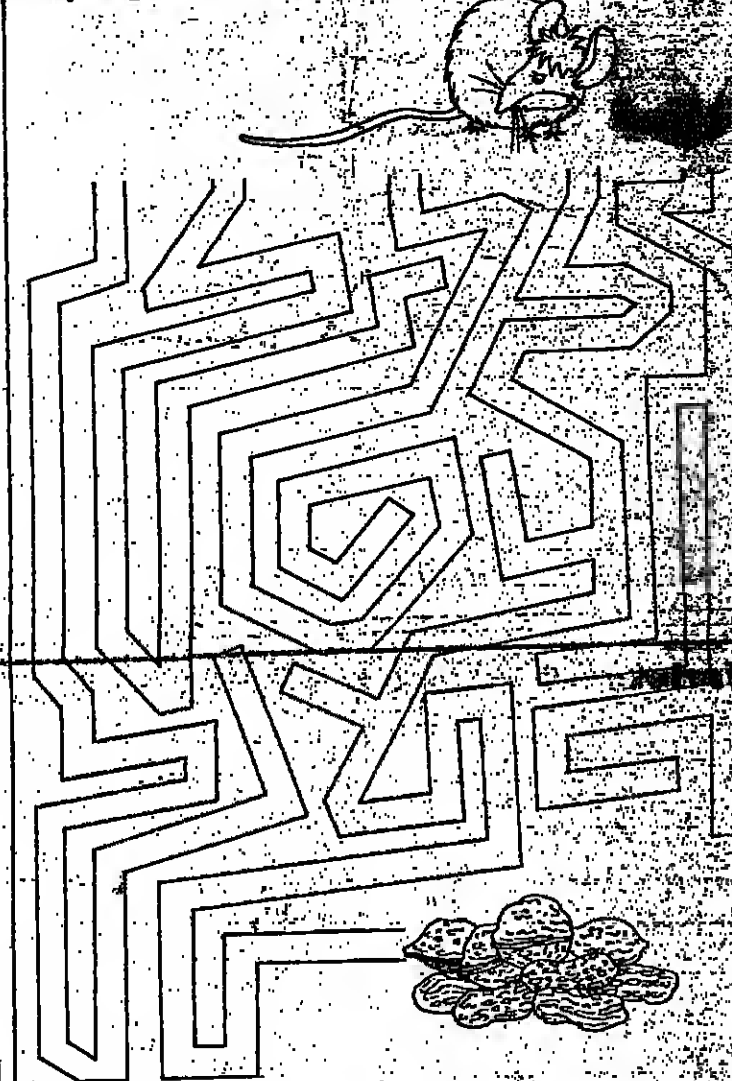
Forces On The Earth's Surface

water

www

— 52 —

Help Roger to find his way through the maze to his nuts



Amazing facts

The Potter Wasp makes a vase-like nest of clay. It then hangs an egg inside on a thread and the 'vase' is stocked with a caterpillar on which the larva will feed.

Birthday coupon

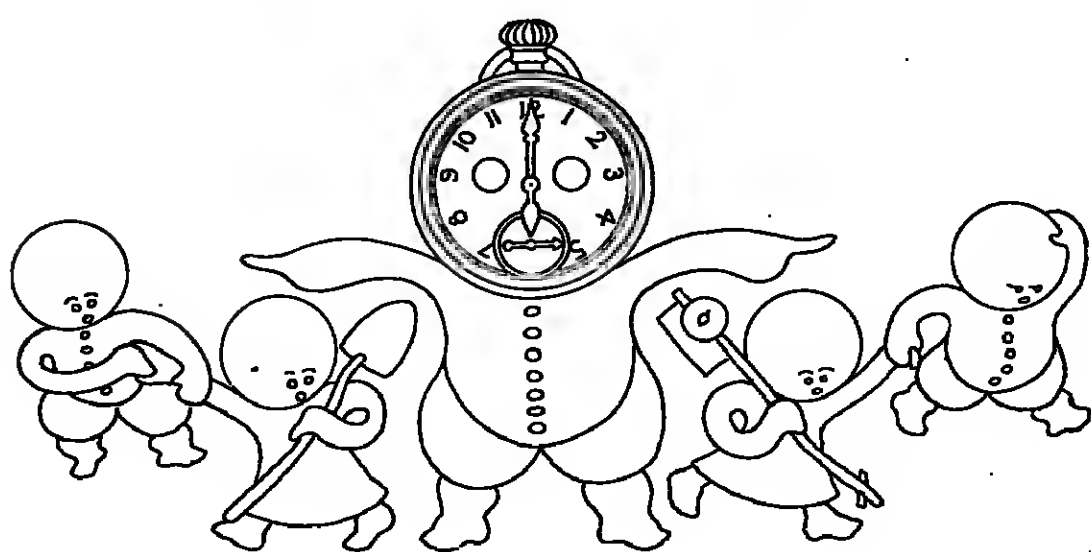
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Junior Times
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13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

TARDINESS

GOODNESS gracious sakes alive!
Mother said, "Come home at five!"
Now the clock is striking six,
I am in a norful fix!
She will think I can't be trusted,
And she'll say that she's disgusted!



Happy birthday



Mohammed Khalid turned 7 on March 13.



Sonali Pinheiro turned 12 on March 13.



Sungandar Thava turned 4 on March 13.



Zelnab Isack turned 9 on March 13.



Vanessa Castalino turns 5 on March 17.



Zohaib Patel turns 6 on March 18.

Colour timing



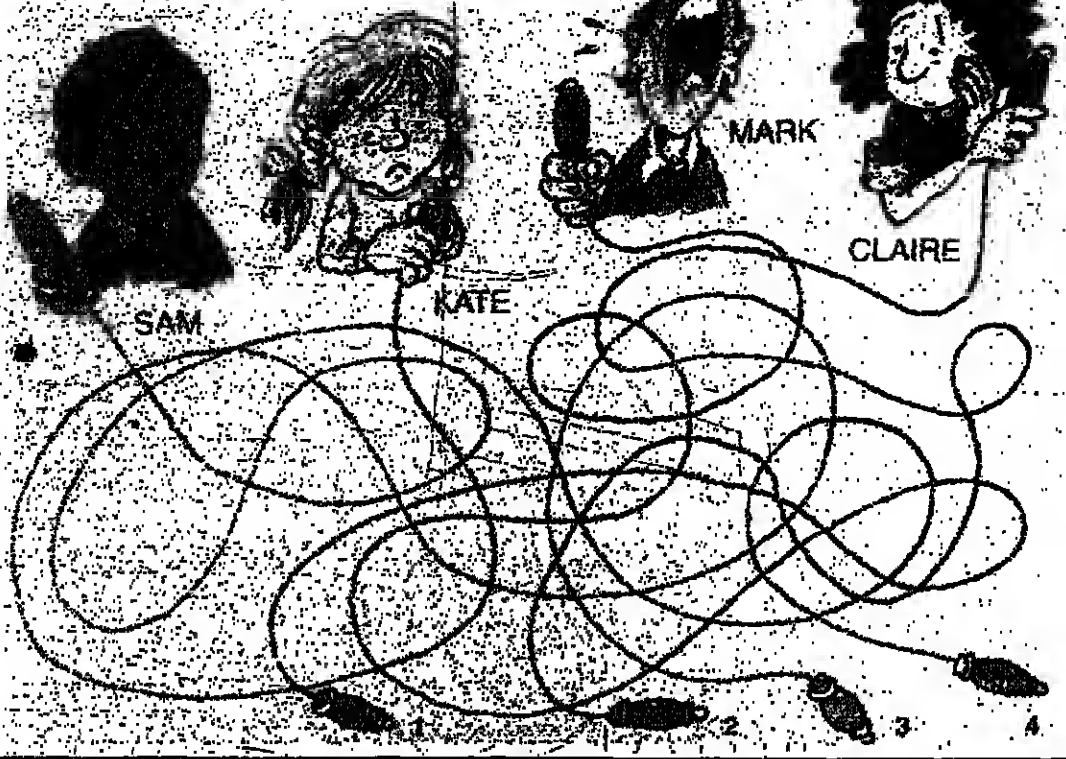
RABBIT

Join the dots



Knotty problem

These skipping ropes have got tangled up. Which rope belongs to which child?



Finger paint fun

Dipping your finger in bright red paint, Dabbing it on paper and making lines so faint, Thinking that you need a little more colour, Painting on your nose and smudging it on your mother.

What a lot of fun, to paint in such a way Potato cutting are a laugh the shapes they make are gay. A carrot top makes a funny mark and lends throw on paper dark looks like the stars that shine at night or a ghostly mist to give a fright.

Digging your finger deep into the pot Squiggling it around, and hearing it PLOP Slapping it on paper, red black or grey, What a super way to spend a play school day.

J. Hodgson

Firsts and lasts

It is common for married couples who celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary to mark the occasion with an object made of gold, because this is their Golden Anniversary. Similarly when they reach their sixtieth one, something made from diamonds celebrates the Diamond Anniversary. But what commemorates the first wedding anniversary — do you know? The answer is something made from cotton — it is the Cotton Anniversary.

The first recorded civil divorce was granted in 1546 to Lady Sadleir of Standon whose husband disappeared, so she married someone else, and her first husband promptly re-appeared!

When the first submarine was invented in 1624 by a Dutchman, it was described by the British Admiralty as a 'damn silly, trifling novelty that will never catch on.' How wrong they were.

The first time the famous comedian Danny Kaye went on stage, it was as a water melon seed.

Oscar stakes: favouring the offbeat

By Brian Hollis

JUDGING from the past, it would seem that there are specific criteria for selecting Oscar winning performances: for men it helps to act either a drunkard/terminally ill/cripple/paraplegic, whereas for women, exotic accents a la Meryl Streep/Vivien Leigh or quirky old grannies are often successful. This year the paraplegics are definitely ahead for the men (*My Left Foot* and *Born on the 4th of July*), whereas the women are led by quirky old *Miss Daisy*. However, not to be forgotten is Sally Field in *Steel Magnolias* with that lilted southern accent which already won her two Oscars for *Norma Rae* and *Places in the Heart*.

Steel Magnolias, according to the hubb, has 'one of the finest female casts ever assembled.' An update version of *Terms of Endearment*, the story focuses primarily on the loving but often adversarial relationship between M'Lynn (Sally Field) and her daughter Shelby (Julia Roberts), a diabetic who is willing to risk her life to bear a son. Offsetting the seriousness of the situation are the humorous ups and downs of the two women's cronies. Oniser (Shirley MacLaine) their eccentric next door neighbour maintains a balding St. Bernard and an ongoing feud with everyone in town, including M'Lynn's

long suffering but trigger happy husband (Tom Skerritt), and her arch rival Clairee (Olympia Dukakis), an equally caustic millionairess.

Beautician Truvy (Dolly Parton) and her Bible-toting assistant Annette (Daryl Hannah) provide a convenient forum for the women to let off steam while having their hair done. The action is compressed into a three year period beginning and ending with Easter. In between the women are united for such traditional rituals as marriage, Christmas, birth and finally death. The dialogue is laced with zippy one-liners and crackling dialogue, which prevents the central story of mother and sickly daughter from becoming too maudlin.

Wall Street was such an international success that the British could not resist making a local version based in the city of London. *Dealers* manages quite successfully to combine an American glossy look with British grittiness and although the plot is not so ambitious, the pace is relentless, with plenty to keep us interested. Paul MacGann plays the star dealer who is next in line to take over the book of a colleague who has killed himself after running up a \$100 million deficit. However, his bosses want to avoid his dangerous style of trading, and bring in an American woman (Rebecca de Mornay). Needless to say, the

two lock horns, but get progressively closer as the film progresses. The film lacks somewhat in humour, and the ending is predictably corny, but the pace and style more than make up for it.

Getting It Right is another look at today's London, but from a different angle. Jesse Birstall plays Gavin, a mild-mannered 31-year-old virgin who works as a hairdresser. He spends his free time thinking about art and daydreaming about the perfect woman. A surprise invitation to a penthouse party leads to an introduction to an older woman who shares his love of art, and he also meets aristocrat Lady Minerva (Helena Bonham Carter) who offers him sex, marriage and a lot of trouble. Eventually, however, he finds that he is falling for plain salon assistant Jane. No real surprises and little emotional involvement. The film is mildly entertaining but is spoilt by American director Randal Kleiser's clichéd outlook on everything British.

Billed as the most ambitious cartoon film ever produced in Europe, *Asterix and the Big Fight* reportedly took 300 artists and technicians two years to make, and carries a 'multi-million dollar tag.' Unfortunately, all this effort and expense is less than apparent on the screen, although as a simple sequel to the other Asterix movies, it achieves its objectives. Druid Getafix

loses his memory after being clouted by a flying mchur and cannot recall the recipe for the crucial magic potion. Asterix and Obelix are forced to play nursemaids to try to jog his memory. Meanwhile, the other villagers have been duped by a quack sooth-sayer, used as bait by the Romans to help them conquer the Gauls. Naturally the film ends up with a big skirmish with the Romans, and the statutory village feast.

Miracle Landing is based on the true story of the Aloha Airlines plane which ripped apart over Hawaii two years ago. *Blind Faith* is a new bestseller starring Robert Urich and based on the true bestseller from the author of *Fatal Vision*. The original crew of the TV series get together again in a full length diamond caper movie called *Loveboat — A Valentine Adventure*. Brad Davis and Madolyn Smith team up together in another movie based on a true story — *The Plot to Kill Hitler*, and David Suchet is back in another Agatha Christie adventure as Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. For sports fans there are new rugby, snooker and basketball tapes, whilst music buffs will enjoy the 32nd Grammy Awards, or new video releases by Janet Jackson, Kylie Minogue and Chris de Burgh.

The above movies are by courtesy of VFI, Fintas/Farwanja; Video Nant, Salmiya Complex; and Video Club, Salmiya.

Sporty by day, slinky by night

LONDON, (AP) The fall fashion message from London is short, sporty by day and slinky by night, with flashes of British wit and individuality. The mood, however, is uncertain.

Top designers Katherine Hamnett and John Galiano skipped London to show in Paris. Two other big names, Rifat Ozbek and Jasper Conran, opted for videos instead of catwalk, shows, and fewer buyers stopped off in London en route from Milan to Paris.

Nonetheless, there was still some of that old wacky madness that put London on the fashion map. Vivienne Westwood, the mother of punk garb, captivated the audience with a collection ranging from classic tailored turtan suits to fake-fur-trimmed bloomers worn with old master-print corsets.

A lycra-clad dancing troupe dressed as haute couture pigs opened the red or dead show based on barnyard characters of country life. Bodymap did a vision of drag queen club life in their sexy sportswear collection.

Britain's designers of the year, workers for Freedom duo Richard Norton and Graham Fraser, showed a collection Norton described as "spare femininity," which featured bikinis over striped body suits, one of the key fall looks from London.

London fashion week, which ended Tuesday, has spread out even further with designers showing all over town and the trade show featuring about 250 exhibitors at the Olympia 2 Exhibition Hall.

At Olympia, accessories from hats to bracelets seemed hotter than clothes.

"I think largely because of high interest rates and the high cost of living, women can't afford to buy another outfit, so they're buying accessories," said Beverly Mann, 28, one of the design duo of the costume jewellery firm Flash Harry.

Melanie Lazlo of Obsession, another costume jewellery firm, said: "London is kind of a melting pot for a wide range of accessories ranging from the weird and wonderful to the Chanel-type classic."

Many fashion designers said the number of buyers was

down. "It's much quieter than it was last year," said David Sassoon of Belyette Sassoon-Lorcan Mulhany, one of London's top eveningwear designers.

"I think stores everywhere are having a hard time," he said. "Where money's tight, they want selling clothes. They don't want jokes. ... They don't want over-the-top things they might have indulged in previously."

Benny Ong, another leading designer whose soft, sensual clothes sell internationally, agreed that the economic situation was keeping buyers away from London.

"That's why it's important at those times when the economic situation is not so hot to go colour — to pick yourself up," he said. "Power dressing has also changed to something more feminine and confident."

Edina Ronay, bucking the trend with her first catwalk show, said her business was up and insisted that London was "not going to fall flat on its face because two people show in Paris."

Her collection of suits and parkas in orange, ochre and olive, fur-trimmed and brocade bodied jackets, and skintight gold lame and black tops and body suits won high marks for wearability.

There were plenty of other wearable clothes as well. Bruce Oldfield, who designs many of Princess Diana's dresses, incorporated the sporty spirit in his hooded, printed parkas, luxurious velvet bodysuits, sequined sweatshirts and a gold sequined bomber jacket with pants.

Caroline Charles did a "Eurochic" collection featuring Romanian peasant embroideries and folksy tapestry and fringing alongside her snappy city suits and slinky evening dresses.

Ozbek abandoned his summer white for dazzling colours — another fall theme — in hooded tops, tunics, cropped bomber jackets and leggings and body suits in dazzling sequins, stretch velvet and gold lame.

Conran found his inspiration in "the off-duty ballerina," with body-hugging catsuits topped by cropped leather jackets and quilted bronze bomber jackets.

Teenage rebel's literary success

SAN FRANCISCO, (Renter): For Holly Uemoto, author of a well-reviewed new novel called *Rebel Without A Cue*, the path to literary success began when she dropped out of school.

"I was told by teachers and peers alike that I was not very intelligent," recalls Uemoto, 20, whose book centres on the lives of teenagers, one of whom had AIDS, in a wealthy area of California.

"What really tore it," she said, was discovering that her name was on a list of students destined for a high school that had a student body largely comprised of delinquents.

Aged 15, she quit school altogether, which she admits did not please her parents.

They were homicidal at first," Uemoto said in a recent interview, dressed entirely in black and wearing a large butterfly-shaped ring.

"They just wanted me to toil away at the salt mines of education and bungle along the rest of the 'Megadotards' until I got my degree," she said, using a word of decision that she apparently coined herself.

After leaving school Uemoto toiled away instead on a novel, finishing a rough draft in just three weeks. She sold it to the third literary agent she approached.

The book was released in November by Crown Books to mostly positive reviews.

"Uemoto ... delves into the flashy, sometimes fatal, world of easy money, sex and drugs, and emerges with a terrific book," a New York Times reviewer wrote of the book.

The novel is set in California's affluent Marin county, north of San Francisco.

It is there that Thomas Bainbridge, the world's most success-

ful male model, returns to tell his best friend, Christian Delon, that he has contracted AIDS.

Christian, a recent high school graduate, narrates the tale.

Reviewers and Uemoto's editor praise her ability to capture the way people really talk.

"Her words on the page sound as if they came out of a human mouth," said Lia Healy, editor at Crown.

Healy was also impressed by a first novel that is not autobiographical and one in which a female author writes from a male perspective.

"You very seldom see someone make such an imaginative leap in voice, particularly in the first person," Healy said. Uemoto is more modest.

Uemoto says she is nothing like her characters, who take drugs as easily as some people take vitamins.



Alan Smith of ITT adjusting the diameter of the curve with an actuating screw

Re-inventing the wheel

A project to re-invent the wheel is about to revolutionise cheap transport in developing countries, where the welfare and productivity of rural areas is inhibited by the high cost of imported wheel and wheel production equipment. Although wood is widely available in many such communities, the skills to produce wooden wheels are not. However, there is considerable potential for the local manufacturer of wheels produced from basic steel sections.

ITT Transport Ltd (ITT) working on behalf of the Intermediate Technology Development Group, a British charity, has developed the simple hand operated device for forming wheel rims of any diameter from a variety of steel sections at a low cost.

A series of equi-spaced chalk marks are made on a length of steel section and it is then fed into the three operating rollers. The lever operating the top roller is then depressed, forming a bend in the section. The section is then advanced up to the next chalk mark and the lever again depressed. Thus a series of incremental bends results in a perfectly formed circle of consistent diameter.

The production equipment is adaptable in that it can be made from a wide selection of steel materials according to what is locally available. It is easily produced in a small rural workshop having basic metal working equipment for cutting, drilling, turning, and welding. The wheels are cheaper than the imported alternatives and can be adapted to accept a variety of bearing and axle assemblies. Among those developed are wheels for pneumatic tyres, scrap metal motor car tyres and several non-pneumatic design — all significantly more durable than their standard equivalent.

The technology is currently being used by projects producing wheels for a variety of vehicles in Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, India and Zimbabwe.

On the Record

'Louie, Louie' can be anything you want it to be

Rock

Various artists. *The Best of Louie Louie, Volume 2*. Remember that congressional committee back in the early '60s that was so worried about the allegedly naughty lyrics to *Louie Louie*? Those Congressmen would really have a collective fit if they heard the three-chord classic sung in Russian by the Soviet band *Red Square*.

The howling, primal Russian version makes the song sound especially dirty and likely to send solid American teenagers into fits of passion that undoubtedly would lead to the downfall of the American way if we hadn't already won the cold war.

But then *Louie Louie* is that kind of song. It can be anything you want it to be. Menace to society, frat boy pre-buff party tune, baby boomer anthem, mindless muzak.

Rhino the oddball Santa Monica, Calif., label with a talent for retrospectives, offers 10 more of the 300-plus versions of Riehard Berry's accidental classic, this time featuring something for everyone.

In addition to *Red Square*, the Angels do a passable girl group rendition, *Tyme* code with Steven Sperling synthesizes it, the shockwaves set it azzle with the surf guitar sound and Pete Fountain

mellows it with a sweet clarinet. The kings even try to make it grammatical as Ray Davies changes the words from *Me Gotto Go to I Gotto Go*. How very British of him, yet blasphemous.

Paul Revere and the Raiders manage some decent yells and grunts on an otherwise flat version. Stanley Clarke and George Duke give it a funkiness while Mongo Santamaria comes up with a *Louie Louie* that's especially appropriate for the beach. But leave it to Tina Turner to fill it with sex.

The versions are diverse enough that you can listen to Volume 2 and its predecessor (which includes Berry's original, the Kingsmen's version and offerings by the Rice University Marching Band, the Sandpipers and Punks Black Flag, among others) back-to-back without going daft. It would be unwise to listen to them a second time through, however, unless you want to endanger the republic.

For the record, Berry's lyrics weren't dirty. They were about a Jamaican sailor telling a bartender, the esumable Louie, about how much he misses his woman. Berry sold off the rights to *Louie Louie* for a mere 750 long before it became rock's favorite party song, but after a legal battle he now owns half the copyright to the song.

Classical

Paula Robison, flute, with Timothy Hester, piano. *American Masterworks*.

In Aaron Copland's Third Symphony, the last movement begins with *Fanfare for the Common Man*. But before you hear it loud and brassy, he gives it to you soft and pastoral, by giving the melody to the flute.

A similar theme opens this disc. At first you wonder if Copland has written a "Duo for flute and piano" without the piano. When it does play, it is with discretion verging on reticence. A lovely piece. Quibble: the slow movement should be slower and the finale faster.

Two melodic Samuel Barber pieces follow. *Melodies* Passengers is an interesting work. Barber had set some French poems to music. Here the flute "sings" the vocals. The second piece is an arrangement of the slow movement of Barber's one piano concerto and holds one of his many memorable melodies.

"Lyric study for flute and piano" by Roy Harris is forgettable. And you're getting that from a diehard Harris fan.

A three-movement piece by 35-year-old Robert Beaser closes the disc. Inventive variations ... and

attentive use of the flute's varied moods.

Paula Robinson impresses with her goosy-toning in the beaser. Of particular note in Timothy Hester's accompaniment is his attention to the tasty chords in the Beaser and his delicacy in the Copland.

An hour is too long to listen to this or any duo. Even Bob and Ray are best enjoyed in short bits. If you listen to lengthy chamber music CDs all at once you'll tire of chamber music and wonder why.

Country

Larry Boone. *Down That River Road*. The highlight of this album is Larry Boone's *Everybody Wants to Be Hank Williams*. It has a line "Everybody Wants to Be Hank Williams, but nobody wants to die. It's a terrific song that is doing well on the charts for Boone, who is its co-writer.

Another winner for this traditional artist is *I Know Who Drove Her There*. Another Boone-co-written tune is *Too Blue To Be True*, a ballad with a fine vocal performance. *Best Performance By a Fool*, is a clever parody on awards shows only it's about a man who does his girl wrong.

Other notable tunes include *Gettin' Nowhere* (*Gettin' Over you*), *A Quarter of a Time*, and *Down That River Road*. Boone is headed for stardom in country music and this album may do the trick.

Indian Cinema

Amitabh — on a self-destructive spree

Agneepath fails to draw crowds

By Firoze Rangoonwalla
Arab Times correspondent

A SANSKRIT proverb says that when bad times come, the mind also starts doing inverse things. This is more or less the present case with super-star Amitabh Bachchan. He has been doing one wrong film after another and also saying various strange things in print. A highly qualified intelligent artist like him should have taken a timely turn towards fresh films, based on strong scripts and also guarded his public (political) image. But it all unfortunately seems that Amit is on a self-destructing spree, the latest film *Agneepath* is also a step on the same path.

A week after its release, he flew off abroad and his spokesman says that he may be away for a month. No one likes to face failure and the sign of *Agneepath* going down (like his previous four films) became evident within a few days. The main Bombay theatre, run by his friend-eum-producer and supported by his Fans' Club, put up House Full boards and made-up a rush at the gates at show time. But collection figures and reports from different centres were not too encouraging. Trade circles insisted that Amitabh will have to come back soon to dub the whole film again in his normal voice, as the strange boarse voice used by him has proved a major put-off.

Anyway, this is not the only reason for the cold response to the badly awaited film, promoted as an extremely slick crime thriller in Hollywood style. Cinegoers have eloquently lamented that it is nothing of the sort. Director Mukul Anand and the host of invisible writers have put together a hash of formula scenes, with Amitabh's pet set-up ... his image as a saviour-cum-underdog, parallel hero Mithun reduced to buffoonery, heroines Madhvi, Neelam and other women fluttering briefly in the background, weird crude villains like



Amitabh Bachchan: on the way out

Danny and helpful friends like Tinnu Anand doing the eccentric bit, all amidst a backdrop of slums, slime and crime by the mafia.

From reel one, the film defies plain logic and raises ugly questions. Why does the hero's idealistic father go to teach a prostitute alone at night in her house? How is it possible that the hero pierced

with six bullets (which he invited on himself) manages to survive? Why can't Krishnan Iyer (Mithun), who calls himself M.A., speak or follow a few English words, like nurse for example? Why does the hero beat his sister for loving the man who has saved his life? How can a village chief turn all men into slaves and all women into whores?

No, the film takes too much for granted and cinegoers recent being fooled, while video viewers just dismiss it. The cassettes which were priced high just before release were soon offered on hire at surprisingly low rates. The main sufferers will be distributors and theatre owners who are facing a tough time recovering their advances.

The film took a good start in Bangalore, Mysore and West Bengal but fared poorly in Rajasthan, North, Central India and Hyderabad zones. In Jaipur, the box office collections dropped to Rs.30,000 on the sixth day. In Delhi and North, there were no full houses on the second day, with a fall noticed from the fourth day. People seem to be fed up, not only with violence, but also with the same dirty mafia dons, the uncouth characters from tinsed towns and the overbearing atmosphere of mud, filth, darkness, ugly faces or voices, cold blooded killings (also by the hero) and oodles of blood.

Hype

Sure, Amitabh has not played his cards well once again, that too in a film on which so much depended. There was the usual media hype, with the film given a tempting veneer in advance. Distributors were assured with the illusion that a goldmine was lying ahead. Other audio-visual media were pressed into service. The hero himself released Venus Records & Tapes Co.'s new cassette *38 Non-stop Amitabh Dhamaka*. Nasreen Kabir's video programme *Follow That Star* made for Channel 4 of UK was pumped into the Indian market by Multichannel and even its trailers were liberally injected in the cassettes of other films. It contains interviews as well as excerpts, all aimed at glorifying the hero. But finally it is the main film itself which counts.

Does Amitabh's public image involving some political blunders and alleged

economic scandals go against his films? This never happens with Indian movie idols, as people forget everything else, once they are sucked in by the illusion of gripping film. But Amit's mind began to believe in the reverse. So the pre-release publicity of *Agneepath* also included a series of Amit's interviews, some genuinely journalistic and others stage-managed. In all of them, the hero kept up the refrain of being persecuted facing imminent doom.

Links

Amitabh did not show much faith in the new government's fairness, while also disclaiming his links with the old Congress - I. He even made statements that Rajiv Gandhi should have resigned before elections. For the new regime, he only showed doubts and fears, even going to the extreme of saying that he would be locked up in jail. This persecution complex made him think that some damaging documents would be concocted against him and planted right inside his house. People took this with a pinch of salt, as they knew that legal investigations were afoot and he would not face any trouble, if nothing was proved against him.

Obviously good old Amit wanted the same wave of sympathy and love, which he enjoyed during his peak period or at the time when he was in hospital fighting for his life. But this time his methods were wrong. People could find out that he was fishing for pity and also pre-empting possible failure by barking on the Bachchan name being soiled and his star image getting tarnished with false accusations. That's why he had also become humbler and approachable.

Amitabh should realise that it is only a new type of fascinating and successful film that can resurrect him totally, above everything else. He must find such a script and work in it. His coming half a dozen films don't seem to be anywhere near this goal.



Kabir Bedi: happy memories

Mini Meet: Kabir Bedi

Coming back to Bombay

Q. How do you find life between the start of your career and the present come-back?

A. I started life in Bombay with ad agencies as a backroom boy. The first time I modelled was for Liberty Shirts and then in ad films for cigarettes. I proved quite impressive. I started my own agency which flopped. Then O.P. Ralhan cast me in *Hulchul*. Zeenaal also made her debut with it.

Q. How do you feel about your return to India and Indian films?

A. It was a long detour. When films like Mahesh Bhatt's *Manzila Aur Bhai Hain* did not succeed, I went away abroad. I got accepted. I did *Sandokan* and many other things. It was great. I came back for *Khooon Bhari Maang* and again got attached. Memories came back when I happened to meet Zeenaal.

Q. But now there are too many actors in the race. What image are you building for yourself?

A. I never believed in it. Positive and negative is all rubbish. There must be a strong character to play. I also don't like to be in the race, meaning juggling with 15 to 20 films.

Q. Any comments on your daughter Pooja's life style?

A. It is her personal matter. I have been a liberal father in the matter of education, upbringing, freedom. Let youngsters find their own feet.



Shatrughan and Shabana: political friendship

● After Bharti and Swapna in *Izzatdar*, Dilip Kumar is looking out for another South Indian heroine. So, Madhvi is eager to impress the great thespian, and Dilip himself corners her at parties for exclusive talks. Madhvi needs a new hero after the Amitabh *Agneepath* debacle and an "old" one would also do.

● The state government ruling Maharashtra (Bombay) gave a reward to its favourites as a parting gift before election. Several people were given the title of S.E.M. (special executive magistrate), who can be even called to judge cases. But these included people with criminal records, thus leading to the film drama of "chor" (thief) becoming "police". A film personality who got it is Jaya Chakravarty, "amma" of Hema Malini. But the lady had been declared insolvent some time back. And such people are not entitled to such titles.

● Copying film tunes is now leading to fights and assaults. The song *Jumna-chumma de de* from *Hum* used by Laxmi-Pyare has been copied by Bappi Lahiri as *Tamma tamma* for *Thanaana*. The *Hum* director Mukul Anand is so angry that he has threatened to take it to the streets and beat up Bappi. But what if the fans and supporters of the original African song-composer decide to beat up Mukul, L.P. and the tall one? What do they say about those who live in glass houses?

● Vijay Amritraj when queried about rumoured marriage to Sri Devi keeps giving the fixed line: "I have never dated her. I have not seen any of her films. I only admire her." But then how did it all start? There is no smoke without fire. Or does he say this because grapes are sour and Sri has found him not attractive enough for her glamorous self?

● Politics makes strange bed-fellows indeed. Or at least chair-fellows. Shatrughan Sinha does not belong to any party but he has supported the National Front and not the Communist party. Shabana Azmi like her father has always belonged to the CPI, which is now a party to the coalition government. So Shatrughan and Shabana keep meeting and cracking jokes at functions. She is now chairperson of Children's Film Society. Retorting to this Shatrughan says: "Then I will be chairman of Adults Film Society."

● Among the producers to whom Vinod Khanna has given nightmares are Raj Sippy, Bhappi Sonie, Ranjeet, Hema Malini and even Lata Mangeshkar.



Bappi Lahiri: copying



Madhvi: old is gold

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

TAKE CARE IN REMOVING DUST SPECKS FROM EYES

QUESTION: The dust really flies when I'm at work, and it seems that it always gets into my eyes. I guess I have to accept that fact if I'm going to continue to earn my keep, but would like your opinion as to the best method for removing these annoying specks.

ANSWER: Your question permits me to speculate a bit about your occupation. I would have to presume that you may be working for yourself, perhaps in one of the many construction skills. The reason I say that is that a larger organisation might require you to wear some protective gear for eye safety.

But your question warrants answering. Statistics tell us that, among the more than 325,000 eye injuries treated in emergency rooms each year, almost half occur in and around the home, so my first advice to everyone, either in industry or those who enjoy working around the house, is to use safety glasses or goggles when involved in activities that can result in eye injury.

However, if you do get a speck of dirt, dust or other foreign matter in the eye, here are some simple rules:

● Do not rub the eye. That may be hard to do as the eye may itch and burn.

● Do blink rapidly, as that will help your own tears wash out the speck.

● Try to lift the upper eyelid over the lower lid so that the lashes may brush the speck off the inside of the upper lid. However, don't try this if your eyelashes are covered with mascara or other cosmetics.

● Irrigate the eye. This may be done by pouring tepid tap water over the eye while holding the lids open or by submerging your face under the water in a basin and blinking very rapidly.

If the speck remains, it's imperative that you seek medical help. First aid for eye situations are fine, but when even a minor situation is handled improperly, serious injury with the possibility of loss of vision or blindness may occur, so take no chances with the precious gift of sight.

● Osteoporosis Booklet update: Quite a few letters in the mail lately have been inquiring about an osteoporosis booklet that was described here some weeks back. Since you all had faithfully enclosed your \$1 contribution with your request, I did some checking. While it was true that there had been some delay in answering the enormous number of requests that originally flooded in, I have been assured that they are now up to date, and that all letters have been answered.

However, if you did not receive your copy the first time around, just send your name and address on a postcard, and the Osteoporosis Foundation will forward another copy. Some of the problems encountered related to their inability to read your names and addresses (Who said only doctors have poor penmanship?), so please print your information carefully. Send your cards to their new address: National Osteoporosis Foundation, 2100 M Street N.W., Suite 602, Washington, D.C. 20037. This offer is only good for those who wrote the first time but did not receive their books.

An estimated 60 million people in the United States suffer from heart disease. Dr Bruckheim explains how most cases can be prevented or controlled in his new Health Update, *The Human Heart*. Box 4406, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4406. Make cheques payable to Newspaperbooks.

Entertainment News

Dreyfuss case

ACADEMY Award-winner Richard Dreyfuss has signed a long-term development agreement with Disney's Touchstone Pictures in partnership with Judith James to develop and produce movies.

Dreyfuss' films for Touchstone include *Down And Out In Beverly Hills*, *Tinmen* and *Steakout*. The agreement also calls for Dreyfuss to appear in pictures for the studio.

Dreyfuss, who won a best-actor Oscar in 1977 for *The Goodbye Girl*, recently completed starring in *Roseanne* and *Guided by the Stars*. He currently is working in *Once Around With Holly Hunter*.

Zanuck wins

Richard D. Zanuck and his partner-wife Lili Fini Zanuck won the Producers Guild of America's Producer for the Year Award for theatrical motion pictures released in 1989 for *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Their adaptation of the hit Broadway play, which stars Morgan Freeman and Jessica Tandy, led all other movies with nine nominations for Academy Awards this year and so far has grossed more than 60 million.

Zanuck becomes the second member of his family to be honoured by the producers Guild of America. His father, Darryl F. Zanuck, won the award in 1953.

TV special

A flock of motion picture and TV stars will appear in the ABC-TV two-hour broadcast of *Time Warner Presents The Earth Day Special* to generate interest in the ecology movement.



Richard Dreyfuss: producer

Bette Midler will be seen as mother earth attempting to survive today's onslaught of pollution and waste. The two-hour show will be aired April 22.

Other stars participating are Chevy Chase, Kevin Costner, Ted Danson, Geena Davis, Jane Fonda, Michael Keaton, Meryl Streep, Barbra Streisand, Robin Williams and Bruce Willis.

Murphy reprise

Eddie Murphy will reprise his role as the convict released to help track down criminals in *Another 48 Hours*, co-starring Nick Nolte as the frustrated cop who keeps track of the felon.

Walter Hill, who directed *48 Hours*, will return for the sequel written by John Fasano, Larry Gross and Jeb Stuart, based on a story by Murphy.

Also coming back to play cops are Brian James and Frank McRae who appeared in the original film.

Academy donations

Two new film-related collections have been donated to the Margaret Herrick Library of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences by producer-director Bryan Forbes and the Los Angeles country museum of Art.

Forbes donated material documenting his career, including scripts, correspondence and photographs from such films as *The Angry Silence*, *Whistle Down the Wind*, *The Wrong Box*, *The L-Shaped Room* and *King Rat*.

The museum's contribution consists of more than 35,000 photographs and negatives that originally were part of the Hollywood Photographers Archive established Sid Avery.



Meryl Streep: new TV serial

Star slips



Rishi Kapoor

Mumtaz: "I admit I had deep feelings for Shammi Kapoor once. But there was an age gap between us. I also had feelings for Jeetu. And I used to hear that Yash Chopra was 'paagal' about me. I don't know about that."

Gulshan Grover: "You can't make success of both career and marriage. Even if I had not worked hard on my roles and not neglected my family, I would have still made a lousy husband."

Rishi Kapoor: "I can't play an action role or a real tough guy. It goes against my image, and personality. People will not accept certain things."

Anil Sharma: "Raakhee was a fantastic actress. But she had one weakness: drinking. So many times she would come on the sets hardly in a condition to shoot."

Asha Chandra: "Jackie Shroff was a total loss. He used to take drugs and was always broke. I trained him free. He has still to pay me."

BUSINESS & FINANCE

UAE to seek quota increase

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, March 14, (UPI): United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Manasseh Oteiba said yesterday that his country would ask for an increase in its production quota if the question was raised at the forthcoming meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) price-monitoring committee in Vienna, Austria, next Friday.

Oteiba also said that the current benchmark of \$18 per barrel was an ideal price for the remaining period of this year and next year.

Speaking to reporters in Abu Dhabi on the sidelines of a British petroleum symposium, Oteiba said, "If the question of amending the quotas of Opec member states is raised at the forthcoming meeting, UAE will demand an increase in its share."

Oteiba declined to give specific figures on the quota sought by his country.

Opec's price and monitoring committee is to meet in Vienna on Friday to discuss latest developments in the world oil market.

But Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdulrahman Chalabi told the Manama-based Gulf News Agency last week that no decisions would be taken regarding prices and quotas during the meeting.

UAE is currently pumping some two million barrels a day. Last November, it expressed reservations over its Opec-declared quota of 1,095 million barrels per day.

"This quota is not compatible with the UAE's reserves and production," a UAE spokesman said at the time.

Oteiba said that he was satisfied with the situation in the world oil market, which he said enjoyed "stability following Opec measures aimed at leaving the market forces to fix the prices."

He said he was in favour of maintaining the current official benchmark of \$18 per barrel.

Deferred payment agreement

NEW DELHI, March 14, (Kuna): India and Iraq today concluded a deferred payment agreement under which 30 per cent of the value of 2.25 million tonnes of crude oil to be procured by India from Iraq during 1990 will go towards payment of outstanding dues of Indian exporters.

This would imply settlement of dues to the tune of almost \$85 million against total dues of around \$290 million for 1990.

The agreement to this effect was signed here by Ghasan Radwan, Iraqi permanent undersecretary of state, and G.P. Rao, of the Indian Ministry of Commerce, on behalf of their respective governments.

Iraq has been a major market for export of construction projects, with the value of projects undertaken by Indian companies in Iraq estimated over \$3 billion.

However, following the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980 and decline in oil prices the problem of payment arose and Iraq proposed deferment of foreign currency payments in respect of projects being executed in Iraq.

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Opec ministers to discuss world oil market

No decisions expected

BRUSSELS, Belgium, March 14, (AP): Opec ministers gather this week to discuss the world oil market, but are unlikely to tamper with the formula that has brought them higher-than-expected prices so far this year.

"There will be talks about the future, but no decisions," said Pierre Terzian, editor of the Paris-based newsletter Petros-Strategies.

Peter Gignoux, director of the International Energy Department for Shearson Lehman Hutton in London, expected the oil ministers to take little action. "They're going to come and go," he said.

The key monitoring committee of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries was scheduled to open a meeting Friday in Vienna, Austria, to review the world oil situa-

tion. Although only eight oil ministers serve on the committee, all 13 were expected to attend.

The discussions will be the first since the organisation set in late November a crude oil production ceiling of a little more than 22 million barrels a day for the first six months of the year. Before then, the cap had been fixed at 20.5 million barrels in the last quarter of 1989.

Despite the overproduction, prices have been running above Opec's benchmark of \$18 a barrel, reflecting the strong demand for crude oil by the United States and other consuming nations.

Prices shot up early in January, but have slipped some since then.

The average price of seven crudes monitored by Opec was \$18.45 a barrel in the

first week of March. It averaged \$19.58 a barrel for the first two months of the year. It was \$17.31 a barrel in all of last year.

West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark US crude oil, has been trading in the range of \$20 to \$21 a barrel.

Analysts say prices could ease some in the second quarter of the year when demand for oil declines with the warming of weather in the United States and elsewhere.

Nick Antill, analyst at the London-based County Natwest, predicted demand for Opec oil would run about 22 million barrels a day in the April-June quarter.

In advance of the monitoring committee meeting, there were a flurry of reports that some ministers would seek changes to the



Ali Chalabi

benchmark price or their quotas. Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdulrahman Ali Chalabi was reported to be pressing privately for a higher target price, but was unable to muster support from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for such a change.

Also, Kuwait's Oil Minister, Sheikh Ali Khalifa was quoted in the Middle East Economic Survey as calling for an abandonment of the organisation's quota system as soon as possible. He said it was outdated and often ignored by members.

The organisation sets an overall production ceiling for its members and then slices the total into individual quotas for each producer.

The Internal Energy Agency estimated in a recent report that the organisation's production was 23.2 million barrels a day in February, a little above January's pace.

Sheikh Ali has reportedly said Kuwait does not feel bound by its quota when prices remain above \$18 a barrel.

Some analysts believe Kuwait wants to keep prices around the

\$18 mark to encourage sales and discourage non-Opec countries, attracted by higher prices, from taking away some of the organisation's market share.

The Opec members are: Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

Oil prices ended mixed yesterday with a tepid rally based on profit-taking losing ground as the market's overall recent downward trend reassured itself.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for April delivery eased down 2 cents to \$20.22 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after trading as high as \$20.55 a barrel.

Prompt delivery WTI remained unchanged at \$20.25 a barrel on the US Gulf coast cash

market. Unleaded gasoline for April delivery gained 0.54 cent to 54.57 cents a gallon on the Merc, considerably below its high on the day of 56.10 cents a gallon. May delivery contracts, however, eased down 0.08 cent to 59.48 cents a gallon.

On the New York harbour cash market, unleaded gasoline edged up 0.30 cent to 52.65 cents a gallon.

April delivery heating oil slipped 0.02 cent to 53.51 cents a gallon on the exchange while gaining 0.20 cent on the harbour cash market.

Prices opened higher on the Merc — following through on Monday's late rally based on traders taking profits on short positions previously staked out in anticipation of the recent decline in prices.

Kuwait, Hungary review energy ties

Joint investments in oil to be launched

BUDAPEST, March 14, (Agencies): Hungary and Kuwait will consider launching several joint investments in the oil and energy sectors once the appropriate economic foundations are in place, it has been disclosed here.

According to Hungarian Trade Minister Tamás Beck, joint oil and energy investments, such as the establishment of a Kuwait-Hungarian corporation, would be discussed once "certain technical points" are cleared.

Beck, who is on a four-day visit here to discuss ways of expanding relations with Hungary which is in the process of undergoing extensive economic reforms.

Sheikh Ali told a press conference that Kuwait was interested in carrying out joint ventures with Hungary which, he said, would witness great economic development in the long term following for the political changes.

He said Kuwait had shown its intention to satisfy this goal by signing an agreement with Hungary in



Sheikh Ali

November last year designed to encourage and safeguard investments.

However, he conceded that investment in the oil sector required "deeper study."

Beck, who visited Kuwait last year for the signing of the investment accord, said the agreement had reinforced negotiations currently underway to set up new joint projects.

Experts from both countries were due to hold talks in Kuwait in May this year to formulate a draft agreement on the prevention of double taxation between the two countries.

He told reporters that Kuwait was negotiating to have an interest in 100 fuel distribution stations in Hungary and he hoped that, if successful, it would be a starting point for more co-operation in different spheres.

He said his country would require increasing quantities of oil in the future and with supplies from the Soviet Union falling by 250,000 tonnes this year alone, the shortfall would have to be supplemented.

Beck noted that Hungary had submitted several proposals to market the country's goods through Kuwaiti channels. Under this system, 90 buses from Hungary had been exported to Kuwait for distribution to other states in the Gulf region.

The minister noted that the value of Hungarian exports to Kuwait increased by 22 per cent to \$40 million last year and he expressed the hope that such growth would continue in the coming years.

time in the coming years.

Kuwaiti ambassador to Austria, who is also accredited to Hungary, Abdul Hamid Al-Awadhi was quoted as saying that Hungary, as an oil importing country, could benefit greatly from Kuwait's experience in petrochemicals and marketing of oil products.

He suggested that Hungary could well act as a "springboard" for boosting Kuwait's presence in the Eastern bloc's oil and energy markets in view of the country's distinctive geographic position in bridging East and Western Europe.

Hungarian President Matyas Szoros, who met Sheikh Ali, stressed that the current economic changes coupled with the country's first democratic elections scheduled for later this month would contribute to improving bilateral relations.

The Kuwaiti minister is due to travel to Vienna to attend a meeting of the eight-member Opec ministerial market monitoring committee on Friday which will assess the current supply and demand situation in the world oil market.

Plan to expand inter-Arab trade

Ministers approve fund

ABU DHABI, March 14, (Reuters): Arab finance chiefs approved today the establishment of a \$500-million fund intended to keep as much trade as possible within the Arab world.

Finance ministers from the 21-nation Arab League and the heads of the five main Arab monetary and development funds passed the project at their annual meeting in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

"We want to divert trade going overseas (to non-Arab states) and get it flowing around the region," said a senior official of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

AMF economists estimate that only eight per cent of all Arab nations' trade is done with each other. Profits and other benefits from the rest of Arab trade are therefore at best split with industrialised countries where Arab nations buy most of their food, and manufactured goods and where they export most of their oil.

The new fund will become operational in July, when countries can start applying for financing for

trade projects involving exports of Arab-made goods to other Arab nations.

Crude oil and gas exports are not eligible, although refined products are, AMF officials said.

The Abu Dhabi-based AMF, which has contributed \$250 million to the fund, will take four of the eight board seats and the fund will be also based in Abu Dhabi.

The Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development will have two seats and contributed \$100 million. The Algerian Central Bank, which gave \$35 million, and the Bahrain-based Commercial Arab Banking Corporation, which gave 25 million, will probably have the other two seats.

Contributions from other central banks and organisations have brought the total sum raised to \$450 million so far.

AMF officials said the Islamic Development Bank had promised another \$50 million in a parallel trade financing fund where funds will be awarded on Islamic principles.

(See Page 16)

Commercial satellite launched

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., March 14, (Reuters): A US company today launched a five-tonne, \$140-million communications satellite that will give the United States a firm foothold in the commercial space launch field.

The 10,179-pound (\$4,627 kg) communications satellite for the 118-nation international telecommunications satellite organisation Intelsat, built by the Martin Marietta Corp, was launched into space aboard a Titan rocket.

It was the fourth orbital launch by a US company since the 1986 explosion of the US Challenger space shuttle, after which the NASA space agency turned over commercial launches to private enterprises and confined itself to military and scientific space missions.

The Titan lifted off from the US Air Force's Cape Canaveral launch facility.

Dollar little moved

Gold firm

LONDON, March 14, (Reuters): The dollar edged to a slightly lower close in Europe today despite continued concern at the cost of German unification. Britain's political and economic health and interest rate uncertainty in Japan.

"The market has ceased to react to items of news which would normally be market-movers," one dealer in Frankfurt said.

"The market was very quiet today," said Makoto Aratake, a dealer at the Bank of Tokyo in London.

The mark was still troubled by German unification plans. "I don't think any of us can really fully grasp the implications of the East German issue," one dealer said. "It's such a new situation that no one quite knows what to expect."

West German chancellor Helmut Kohl's promise yesterday of a one-for-one exchange rate for East

German savings into West German marks had been largely discounted by the markets as political bait, dealers said.

They said the mark was expected to remain at current levels until East Germans elect a new government in the country's first free elections on Sunday.

"Where details of monetary union are announced (after the election), they will probably be different from anything that has been discussed to date," one dealer said. "A one-to-one exchange rate is simply unrealistic given relative purchasing powers."

The yen was troubled by speculation that Japan would raise its discount rate soon after Bank of Japan governor Yasuhiro Mieno returns tomorrow from a trip to Europe.

Gold firmed in a featureless London bullion market to end at \$399.35 an ounce after \$396.50 yesterday.

French bank seeks investors

PARIS, March 14, (Reuters): After pressure from African states, the French government is blocking a plan by Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) to liquidate its majority-owned Biao Bank network in Africa, banking sources said today.

They said the Paris government had come down hard against any moves to close down the loss-making Biao (Banque Internationale Pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest).

"They've tried very hard to liquidate Biao but they've always failed because of the political reaction from African governments," one source said.

"BNP has sent delegations to the governments of Ivory Coast, Cameroun and Senegal but their request to liquidate or amalgamate the bank has been forcefully refused," he added.

The three states have the strongest economic or political muscle among about a dozen former French colonies linked in the vital Biao banking network.

A spokesman for BNP, which took a controlling stake in Biao in 1988 at the request of the French government, said the Biao issue was highly confidential. But he said increasing economic problems in Africa were "terrifying".

A senior French official said he was aware of

government resistance to BNP's request to withdraw from Africa, a move likely to compound the economic miseries of France's former African colonies with strong links to Paris.

BNP owns 51 per cent of the Biao stock, the rest being held by Union de Banques Suisses, Banco do Brasil and African investors.

Biao, with a balance sheet of 16.5 billion francs (\$2.9 billion), has a reputation for expertise in banking in African countries, most of them former French colonies.

But its fortunes have fallen in recent years and in 1988 it lost 293 million francs (\$51 million).

BNP, which is controlled by the French state, is not in a position to have a major confrontation with the government and has now pinned its hopes on finding other investors to take its place, the sources said.

British merchant bankers Warburg and Co and private French bank Credit Commercial de France could participate in a restructuring that would allow BNP to sell its stake, they said.

Other sources said private bankers Europenne de Banque were willing to team up with African investors, including South Africa, to take over a restructured Biao.

Each day in the classified pages of the Arab Times

ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Reforms under way

World economy facing moderate slowdown in 1990

US GDP growth set to slow to about 1.8pc this year

UNITED NATIONS, March 14. (Opecna): The world economy faces a moderate slowdown in 1990, with output in most Eastern European countries expected to decline and a similar trend in growth on a per capita basis in Africa and Latin America, according to a United Nations report.

These were the principal conclusions of 90 experts in economic forecasting from about 40 countries and regional centres meeting at headquarters under the chairmanship of Prof. Lawrence Klein, a Nobel prize winner.

The meeting of the expert group on short and medium-term projections of the world economy was opened on March 7 by Rafeuddin Ahmed, under-secretary general for International Economic and Social Affairs, and concluded Friday night.

On the basis of present policies, world economic growth is expected to slow somewhat in 1990, to less than 2.5

per cent, the experts concluded.

Among developed countries, the slowdown would be particularly marked in Canada, Britain and the United States where a relatively long period of economic expansion is expected to be interrupted by tighter monetary policy, a shrinking federal deficit and decreased rates of investment and export growth. As a result, gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the United States would slow to about 1.8 per cent this year.

The experts concluded further that the reduction in world trade growth and in demand for primary commodities would reduce the export earnings of most developing countries. The debt-servicing burdens of some heavily indebted countries are expected to be reduced by negotiated debt reduction and debt equity swaps, but others would find their situation further aggravated by the recent increase in

world interest rates which are not expected to decline significantly in 1990.

In most Eastern European countries, the political and economic reforms underway are exacting heavy transitional costs as overall output is expected to decline slightly in the region as a whole in 1990. Medium-term prospects are for a gradual improvement in economic performance in the region.

The hardest hit would be the sub-Saharan African countries, for which special assistance is being sought by the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the African Development Bank. Without increases in the level of assistance, per capita incomes are expected to decline during the next two years following several years of deteriorating economic performance.

Asian countries, including China, are expected to fare much better than

the world average, the experts concluded, but increasing protectionism, some exchange rate appreciation and a slower pace of world demand could reduce their growth rates, which have been buoyant in recent years.

The experts noted that in the Latin American countries, per capita income fell again last year and was expected to fall further in 1990 due to heavy debt-service payments and the slowdown in world demand for the region's exports. In addition, austerity programmes in Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Venezuela, among others, were expected to restrain domestic demand resulting in slow or negative growth in GDP in those countries.

A number of oil-exporting countries in the Middle East exhibited somewhat higher growth in 1989 than in the past and are expected to continue to exhibit GDP growth of between four and five per cent, since declining oil production

in the industrialised countries combined with increases in oil consumption are expected to sustain current price levels and increase export earnings, according to the experts.

In making their assessment, the country experts combined their own analyses of recent economic developments with the forecasts prepared by Klein and Associates at the universities of Pennsylvania and Toronto, with the support of technical staff at the United Nations using an econometric world model.

The experts devoted several sessions to the implications for the world economy of the economic reforms underway in Eastern Europe. They analysed in a preliminary way the contribution that additional capital inflows from countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) could make to underpinning and strengthening the reforms. Experts

from several developing countries expressed concern that developing countries, especially heavily indebted ones, might be adversely affected by these developments.

They felt that increased competition for limited amounts of development finance and higher world interest rates could significantly worsen the prospects of many developing countries. The experts concluded that such concerns had merit, but might prove to be exaggerated.

They further noted that if major reductions in defence expenditures were brought about, both developing countries and Eastern European countries might benefit from increased international support for development and economic reform. World trade, and production should benefit from pursuit of new economic policies in Eastern Europe and this would work to the benefit of all, including the developing

countries.

Following the slowdown in 1990, world economic output is expected to accelerate somewhat, according to the experts. On this medium-term outlook, GDP growth is expected to average about three per cent in the developed market-economy countries and about six per cent in South and East Asia, but only slightly higher than population growth in most parts of the developing world in Eastern Europe.

Any substantial improvement in the medium-term outlook would require further progress in reducing current account imbalances among the industrialised countries, a more rapid resolution of the external debt problem of heavily indebted countries, greater support for the reform underway in Eastern Europe and international measures directed at strengthening the efforts of structural adjustment in Africa, the report said.



Helmut Kohl
East Germans reassured on savings

EAST BERLIN, March 14. (AP): West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, campaigning in East Germany for speedy unification, has assured people in the economically weak country that their savings will be converted one-to-one into West German marks.

Kohl's promise last night appeared timed to rally support for a conservative three-party alliance competing in East Germany's free elections Sunday. The alliance is supported by Kohl's Christian Democratic Union in Bonn. It faces the revamped Communist Party, which is campaigning on the idea that East Germany's social safety net and full employment are endangered by a hasty takeover by West German capitalists. Kohl's government is pushing for merging the East German mark with its West German counterpart, one of the world's strongest currencies.

Among the thorniest issues in the proposed monetary union, which would be a prerequisite for full unity, is how to treat East German savings.

East German citizens currently would get only about 0.16 ratio reflecting the relative weakness of the East German economy.

Kohl's assurance echoed similar statements by members of his government.

In his speech at a campaign appearance in Cottbus, East Germany, he also reiterated a call for speedy movement toward unity under article 23 of the West German constitution. The clause allows individual East German states to decide to join West Germany any time.

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	17.280
Sri Lankan rupee	7.430
Pakistani rupee	13.850
Bangladesh taka	8.620
US dollar	29405
Pound sterling	47300
UAE dirham	0.8003
Deutsche mark	17195
Japanese yen	001935

Time for quick and concrete trade solutions: US

TOKYO, March 14. (Reuters): US Secretary of Commerce Robert Mombacher called today for speedy solution of bilateral trade problems which threaten to damage the US-Japan partnership.

Mombacher, who arrived last night for talks with senior Japanese government officials and private business executives, made the statement in a meeting with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, a ministry official said.

The official told reporters Mombacher called for a "quick solution" and "concrete results."

Japanese newspapers today quoted a high-ranking official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as saying Japan must endeavour to solve the trade issue, even if it means sacrifices.

"Japan should strive to the utmost possible limit," Ichiro Ozawa, secretary-general of the LDP, was quoted as saying by the Sankei Shinbun newspaper.

"It is not the United States but Japan which will suffer if the relationship between two

GNP growth slows

Arab economy is deteriorating

ABU DHABI, March 14. (Reuters): Arab finance ministers heard a gloomy report on their economies at their annual meeting tomorrow.

The heads of the five main Arab money and development funds gave their reports to ministers of the 21-nation Arab League at the meeting in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates.

"Economic development in Arab states shows that most of our countries are suffering from domestic, and external economic imbalances," UAE Minister of State for Finance and Industry Ahmed Al Tayyar said in an opening address.

Declining gross national product (GNP), increasing balance of payments deficits and external debts, lower oil earnings, over-reliance on the public sector, and plain bad management had led to the decline, the heads of the five funds said.

The five funds are the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (Afesd), the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (AIGC), the Arab Fund for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAID), and Arab Bank for



Abdul Latif Hamad
Development in Africa (ABDA).

Osama Jaffar Al Faqih, chairman of the Abu Dhabi-based AMF, said Arab nations' deficits had persisted despite rising deficit-financing loans from the AMF since it was established in 1977.

"As we look to the past decade, we see that it has left clear traces... weak economic growth, worse foreign debts, and domination of the public sector," he said.

"Arabs need intensive efforts to redress the imbalances in their economies that obstruct development. They need to boost

savings and upgrade financial and banking systems," he said.

Abdul Latif Hamad, head of the Kuwait-based Afesd, said a drop in Arab oil earnings over the past decade to \$64 billion from \$113 billion, and a drop in GNP to \$355 billion from \$440 billion over the same period, had been a severe blow.

"This has reflected badly on Arab savings which fell to 15 per cent of GNP from around 30 per cent in the early 1980s," he said.

"This has made Arab nations incapable of meeting their international financial obligations," he said.

"We must say that if we want to achieve the objectives of our development plans, we should be inclined to change, including changing the structure and management of our economies," he said.

The heads of the five funds all announced improved profits, and an increase in loans in 1989, but some complained about outstanding debts.

The ministers are due to announce the formal inception of a new \$500-million Arab trade fund to help boost inter-Arab trade, which is at a very low eight per cent of total Arab trade.

Bid to help rehabilitate tourism

Iran seeks Malaysia's help

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, March 14. (AP): Iran, in the midst of reconstructing its war-ravaged economy, is asking for Malaysia's help in rebuilding its stagnant tourism industry.

Iran's request for Malaysian collaboration in tourism was made today by visiting Deputy Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mostafa Hajji to Malaysian Deputy Culture and Tourism Minister Ng Cheng Kuan.

Ng told reporters the Culture and Tourism Ministry would consider the request from Hajji, who arrived yesterday on an inaugural Iran Air flight

from Tebran.

Ng said Malaysia was the first country Iran turned to for tourism co-operation because it was impressed with the ongoing "Visit Malaysia Year 1990" tourism campaign.

The Iranian government is embarking on a \$20 billion five-year economic development plan this month, following its ceasefire with Iraq two years ago which ended the eight-year Gulf war, he said.

Ng said he was told that Iran expects the tourism industry to bring in about \$450 million a year.

China negotiating for nuclear power plant

BEIJING, March 14. (AP): China is negotiating with the Soviet Union to build a 2,000-megawatt nuclear power plant to help meet the country's soaring energy needs, Energy Minister Huang Yicheng said today.

The two-reactor plant, to be located along the coast of northeast China's Liaoning province, would be the country's third and largest.

Huang would not elaborate on the discussions, but Western news reports have said China would barter for the power plant.

China already has two nuclear plants under construction. A 300-megawatt plant at Qinshan, in coastal Zhejiang province, is due to begin operating by the end of this year, five years after construction began.

A second plant, the 1,300-megawatt Daya Bay nuclear plant in southern Guangdong province, began construction in 1987 and its two reactors are to go on-line in 1992 and 1993. The plant has created a controversy in Hong Kong, just 50 kilometres (30 miles) away, because of safety

concerns, but Huang said proposals for more plants in Guangdong are being studied.

Chinese officials have said they expect nuclear power to supply half the nation's electric energy by the year 2050. Coal now provides 70 per cent of China's electric energy, but pollution is a growing problem and inadequate transportation makes it impossible to meet growing demand.

By the turn of the century, China plans to have built nuclear power plants generating 6,000 megawatts of energy, Huang said during a news conference. That target is down from 10,000 megawatts proposed earlier, and Chinese news reports say some specialists doubt that more than 4,500 megawatts actually will be produced by the year 2000.

Although China ranked fifth in the world last year in the capacity of installed generating equipment, according to Huang, its energy production growth rate is about half its industrial growth rate.

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 32352.13

Volume: 480 mil shs

Yen exchange rate: 152.20

Name of stock

Price

Change

Advantage Corp

2090

Alps Electric

2030

Amada

1650

Asahi Chem Ind

970

Asahi Glass

1780

C. Itoh Co

897

Canon Inc

1510

Casio Comp

1460

Dai Nippon Printing

1980

Daiichi Sekiyu

2530

Dainippon Pk

2430

Daikoku Corp

1920

Eisai

1930

Fanuc Ltd

7870

Fuji Photo

3830

Fujitsu Ltd

1380

Hitachi Credit

1570

Hitachi Koki

1990

Hitachi Ltd

1470

Hitachi Metal

1510

Honda Motor

1280

Ito Yokado Co

3800

Kajima Corp

1930

Kawasaki H I

786

Kobe Cast Iron

1300

Nokubi Elec

5130

Komatsu Ltd

1030

Kyocera Corp

7070

Mitsubishi Ind

2820

Matsushita Ind

3610

Mazda MC

855

Change

+13

Price

1470

1870

934

2180

1760

4490

3760

1860

1320

1330

408

2120

1610

2560

1490

1880

5600

6510

3010

318

6290

1530

7750

1460

670

1830

5970

1660

4710

3880

1820

830

1620

2220

1030

Provided by Nomura Investment

Banking (Middle East), Bahrain

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)

March 14, 90

Pr. Close

Open

Close

ACC

356

356

332

Alex Chem

—

Alk Nis

—

Ari Fab

—

Ashok Ley

72

72

72

Asia Paint

223.75

225

222.50

Asas Corp

37

36.50

36.50

Auto Corp

52.50

50

52.50

Nat Index

376.51

380

377.50

Bar Rayon

677.50

668.75

Below Plast

178

177

176

BK Bond

99

99

98.

EVENTS

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 15-16, 1990



MBH promotes seafood

Messilah Beach Hotel is promoting an evening of seafood specialities every Wednesday evening at 7.00 pm in Al-Mubarakiah Restaurant. All your favourite dishes fresh from the Gulf. Selected items prepared

to your liking in the relaxed atmosphere decorated with that maritime touch with live background music.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Watercolours of Arabia
Recent watercolours by Patricia Mills on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajah Museum, Jahriya, Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397 or 5318060.

SAS Hotel
EXHIBITION of water colour and oil paintings as well as stained glass at the lobby until March 20.

SOCIAL

Ninth Kuwait gold & jewellery exhibition
NINTH Kuwait gold and jewellery exhibition is being held at the Grand Ballroom of Kuwait Sheraton Hotel.

Al Rajab Media International, which organised the same successfully is organising it second time. Ten famous Kuwaiti jewellers are going to display their latest and best designs.

The exhibition will continue up to March 15, 1990. It will be open for public from 9.30 am to 1 pm and from 4.30 to 8 pm.

Khalifa School Bazaar
THE Khalifa School will be holding their second Monthly Bazaar on Thursday, March 15, at the Khalifa School Courtyard, from 9 am to 1 pm. For more information contact 12544. All proceedings go to the handicapped.

Ladies International League of Kuwait upcoming events
LIL Desert Picnic on Friday, March 23, 1990. Members and their guests. For further information and tickets please contact Barbara on 5325131. Deadline for tickets is March 17.

Daniella Desert Rally
The annual family rally for Dances will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik — Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

Hell — Festival of Colours
THE IAC is celebrating the festival of colours to commemorate the coming of Spring on Thurs 22nd March at Fun-aites with a suitable programme. Members and their guests are requested to contact: the IAC office (3904817), Sharma (2644863), Raman (3903879), Mathews (4343329), Srivastava (4898162) or Munshi (2423740) for details and passes. Because of limitations, passes are available on first-come-first-serve basis.

Badesik Picnic
Bangladesh Diploma Engineers' Society in Kuwait (Badesik) has organised its annual picnic to be held in Mangat family beach on March 23. The events included the prize distribution of recently completed indoor games and the children sports to be played on the spot. Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait K.M. Sheikhuddin will be the chief guest.

All Badesik members are requested to contact general secretary Khalid Rahman on 4330023 for more details.

Children's Books of the Year 1989 Exhibition
March 10-22 at the gallery. An exhibition of award-winning British published books arranged by The British Council in association with the Kuwait Bookshops Co. Ltd. Orders of books on display may be ordered through the Kuwait Bookshops which will also offer other British-published books at special prices.

Thursday, March 15, 10.30 am: Story telling by a professional story teller.
Please book seats by calling 2515112, 2533204, 2533227.

KUWAIT Little Theatre
KUWAIT Little Theatre presents "Oh Clarence", a comedy by John Chapman, adapted from the books of P.G. Wodehouse. Gala Night is on March 19, 1990, at 7.30 pm with other performances on March 20, 21 and 22 at 8.00 pm. Tickets can be booked by phoning 3919759.

Bangladesh get-together
A NUMBER of Bangladeshi families will hold a spring get-together at the Rawda Park, Damascus Street on March 23. The day-long programme, which starts at 8 am, will include children's games, ladies and gents games and bingo.

For details, contact telephone 3725312, 4315352, 4715734, or 3713923.

APPROB

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding a seminar to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Pakistan Resolution. Javed Iqbal, the son of the renowned Muslim philosopher and poet, Allama Mohammad Iqbal and a retired justice of Pakistan Supreme Court will preside over the seminar at Sheraton Hotel on March 25th.

Dr. Iqbal will read a research paper on "the struggle to obtain a separate Muslim homeland between Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address of 1930 and the Resolution of Pakistan in 1940." Mrs. Iqbal, a law graduate from the Harvard University and law professor at the University of Punjab, will speak on "the role of Muslim women in society as envisaged by Jinnah and Iqbal." A number of research papers on the Pakistan movement and the ideology of Pakistan will also be read at the seminar to be attended by diplomats and prominent personalities.

Approb will also hold an evening with Dr. Iqbal and his wife on March 24th at the residence of Iqbal Latif to acquaint Pakistani children in Kuwait about the ideology of Pakistan. Dr. Iqbal will meet the Pakistani community at the Pakistan embassy on March 26. For further details, contact Approb: 2425315 Fax: 5325751.

Konkani non-stop show
A Konkani non-stop show entitled Konkani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Urtora, organised by Urtora Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawaii.

For more information contact 4817857.

Summer Affair '90
THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a live concert, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Shakespeare's Macbeth

THE London Shakespeare Group, who have already received rave reviews for their performance of Macbeth in Bahrain, Doha, Muscat and the Emirates, will perform at the Kuwait English School, Salwa on March 21 and 22, 1990 at 8 pm and on March 23, 1990, at 6 pm. The cast includes professional actors and actresses with classical backgrounds, who have appeared at the London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End theatres, television and radio. All seats are numbered, and can be reserved by ringing 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143 or 5731782.

"Drama"
"BANDHAN" Nattya Chakra, a Bengali Drama Group, is going to perform its third stage show a Bengali Drama by the name "Boudir Boudir" on 2nd March Thursday 1990 at 5 pm in the Starlight Theatre hall of Doha Entertainment City, Kuwait.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh in Kuwait, K.M. Sheikhuddin will be the chief guests.

For entry cards, please contact the following persons: Abdul Rah. tel: 4316823, Jasim Uddin, tel: 2420484, Video A to Z, tel: 3924320.

Contact
The next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel, 10 am, on Saturday, March 17. Newcomers particularly welcome. For further details tel. 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Ghoranata Pharmacy
Fahad Al Salem street
Al Muntaser Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber street

Nagra and Hawalli
Al Joudar Pharmacy
Tunis street

Sahnaya and Rumaithiya
Al Rashed Pharmacy
Amman street
Fahad Al Salem street
Bastoor Pharmacy
Al Dabous street

Jileeb Al Shuyookh
Al Razeq Pharmacy
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
The New Market

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoon serial
9.45 Sahah Al Kher, programmes
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.15 Sahah Al Kher, programmes
10.30 Rejal Fi Al Masyada: Arabic weekly serial (Part 8), starring Mohammed Awadh, Younis Shalabi Sahar Rami and Fuad Khalcel
11.30 The Open University: cultural programme
12.00 Sabab Al Kher, programmes
12.15 Hwar Wa Nghan: local variety programme, prepared by Khaled Bu Hameed and presented by Nervana Idrees
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 Min Ghair Kalam: Arabic variety programme, presented by Hassan Mustafa
2.15 Discovery: cultural programme
3.00 Varieties
3.30 Liqa Al Khamees: variety programme, prepared by Jameel Hmoud, presented by Ameena Al Sharah
5.00 Saham Al Fadh: cartoon serial
5.30 Egypt informative message to the state of Kuwait
5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: historical serial
7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local programme, prepared by Ministry of Education Schools Activity Department
8.00 Kul Al Fonoon: local programme, prepared by Rasha Kajdi
8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkoor

9.00 News In Arabic
9.45 Lil Adala Wajh Akhar: Arabic serial (Part 3)
11.00 Al Hoh Fawka Had-habat Al Haram: Arabic feature film, starring Ahmad Zaki, Athar Al Hakeem and Jahan Al Mouji
12.30 Thursday special late night feature
1.30 News Summary
1.35 The World Today via Satellite

Friday

- 9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 The Children Magazine: Local children's programme, prepared by Ameena Khayri and presented by a group of children
11.00 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdooa: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael
11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayer and speeches
12.25 Alwan: Local variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
1.00 News summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.20 Hadeeth Deeni: religious programme, Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
2.00 The Friday Break: Local variety programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader and presented by Dawlat Shawqi
3.45 Al hoh we sneeno: Arabic serial
4.45 Saham Al Fadh: Cartoon serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.30 Varieties
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Kuwait Television programmes preview

for a week
6.30 Kuwait in a week: Local news programme, prepared and presented by Television News Control
7.00 The Living Planet: Cultural programme
8.00 The Family Programme: Local programme, prepared by Tahani Al Burtoqali and presented by Fotooh Al Dalafi
8.45 Hadeeth Al Oshoo: Religious programme.
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Wrestling
10.30 Asma Isha thekra: Local variety programme, prepared by Qayem Abdul Qader and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
11.45 News summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 The Smurfs: a cartoon series for children
6.30 Mr Wizard's World: a variety of magical acts and illusions ... training children on how to use or deal with information
7.00 Wild America Peculiar Plants: the importance of plants to human beings as a source of food, medicine and energy ...
7.30 My Secret Identity: "Look Before You Leap." One of Dr Jef and Andrew's neighbours takes a video of Andrew trying to fly above ground ... and attempts to blackmail them ...
8.00 News in English
8.30 Murder She Wrote: a series of mysteries on a recorded tape that he killed the husband of his ex-girlfriend ... but Jessica doubts the validity of the confession and starts investigations to find the real murderer ...

9.30 The Bill Cosby Show: "The Dead End Kids Meet Dr. Lotus."
10.00 More Real People. The strangest Saki, cup-bearer, in the United States ... Old aged people insist on riding wild horses ... The fastest typist in the world.
10.30 Feature film: "Crisis in Mid-Air." Starring: George Peppard, Carin Grassel, Michael Constantine. The dilemma of employees working on control towers in airports ... how they have to face accident in mid-air ...

12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY
6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons: a variety of cartoons for children
6.30 Walt Disney film: "A Boy Called Nuthin." Nuthin reaches his uncle's farm where he plans to stay but due to bad relation between his uncle and his neighbour Nuthin have to face certain difficulties ... Will he stay or leave the farm?

8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away: recreation and entertainment activities carried out in various parts of Kuwait
8.45 Rescue 911: the rescue team carries out a number of operations and chases criminals

9.30 The Weekend Programme: A weekly local programme on a variety of topics and local activities and events ...

10.00 Roseanne: "Little Sisters." "Jackie." Rosie's youngest sister plans to join the police and seeks the help of her sister Rosie in order to realise her hope ...

10.30 The Mystery Wheel: "Grand Deceptions." An officer in the army is blackmailed by his subordinate who discovers that the former is playing freely in the camp's account book. Colombo is asked to investigate the mystery officer's subordinate's murder.

11.30 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Saigon
Al Salmiyah
Cry Freedom
Al Haoura
Deadly Illusion
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Hum Bhi Insaan Hain
Fahad Al Salem
Raj Bikar
Al Jahra
Arabic film
Granada
Batman
Salaikhah
Varavelpu
Jleeb
Sachai Ki Tagat
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

FRIDAY

Al Andalus
Saigon
Al Salmiyah
Cry Freedom
Al Haoura
Deadly Illusion
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Hum Bhi Insaan Hain
Fahad Al Salem
Raj Bikar
Al Jahra
Beverly Hills Body Snatchers
Granada
Batman
Salaikhah
Sky Pirates
Jleeb
Kahani Kismet Ki
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

PRAYERS

	4.30 am	FRIDAY	4.38 am
Fajr	11.57	Fajr	11.57 am
Zohr	3.22 pm	Zohr	3.22 pm
Asr	5.56	Asr	5.57 pm
Maghreb	7.12	Maghreb	7.13 pm
Isha		Isha	

A venture by Christian Dior

WHEN adventure comes into your life, it's never pre-arranged.

It can turn up any time inviting us to look at ourselves, and our beauty, to be ready for excitement. A feeling of strength and certainty. It begins as a quest, an unsettling feeling, a journey to nowhere: ideas of freedom of which we gave all at one time dreamed. The imagination brings back places and souvenirs which attract us to the exotic a no-man's land where all is sweetness, harmony and security.

If this were a town, it would be shady streets under an unrelenting sun; if it were a beach this would be the hour when it is empty yet still warm and you would dream the sweet dreams. If it were a colour it would evoke skies — time, free, and natural.

Adventure, an invitation to beauty interpreted by a soft light make-up, an impression of a voyage — a dream of escape.

A look that's fixed on a far horizon melts into the delicate freshness of 5-colour palette. The colours: Pearly Grey, Violet, The Red, Lavender.

Adventure and exoticism define the new 2 eyes-shadows for a makeup of unexpected contrasts: Curacao/Raspberry or natural Amber/Tortoise-shell.

Lips are contoured with bright or pearlescent tones with new lipliner Pencil. Adventure lipstick and Blush Final to give the finishing touch.

Nails provide a perfect match in Adventure, Horizon, Express, Dream, Mirage, an imaginary voyage transported into a dazzling range of colours.

The moment has come to revisit the classics and to re-discover the talents of the Lipliner pencil's nearly magical benefits which many are slow to adopt for everyday use.

Correcting an outline or alter a contour is child's play thanks to this new pencil with its many assets that has been totally perfected and modernised, accessorised by a double use brush that both blends the line and also applies the lipstick.

Contemporary in its formula containing volatile silicones which evaporate leaving a matte covering film with exceptional staying power which helps the lipstick to remain on longer.

Practical in application, too, in its double function of pencil and brush in one with specially adapted sharpener.

So from now on there is no excuse for not having perfect lips. Available in 8 shades all co-ordinating with Dior lipsticks, the Lipliner pencil provides the perfect partnership.



PPC-Kheitan office bearers selected

Pakistan People's Club New Kheitan branch arranged a meeting of club members, in which Dr. Riaz Ahmad Mahesar, President of PPC, Rafiq Ahmed Mirza, General Secretary PPC, and central executive committee members were invited.

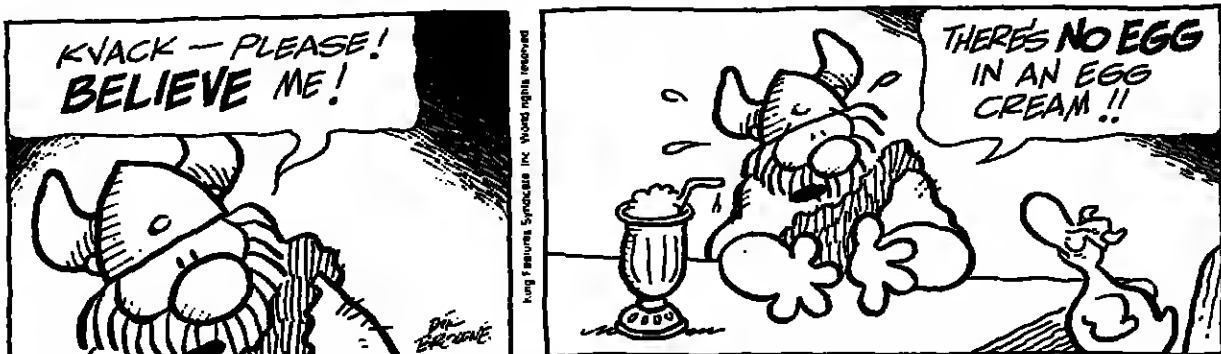
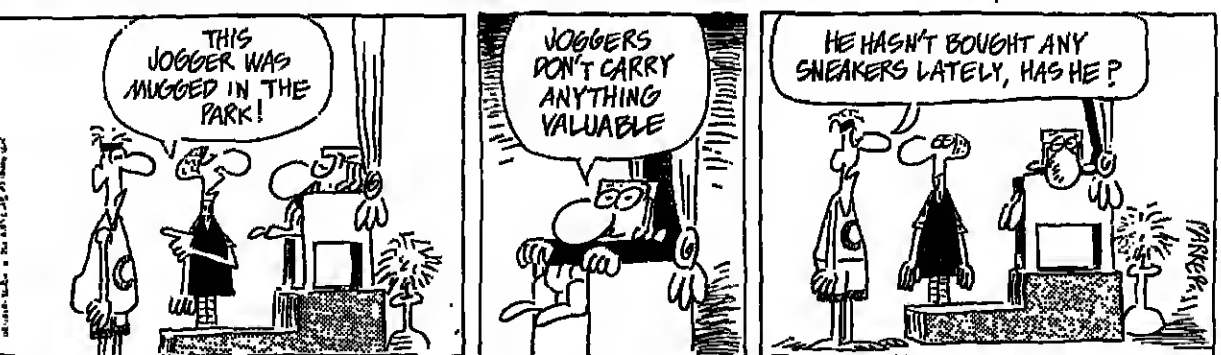
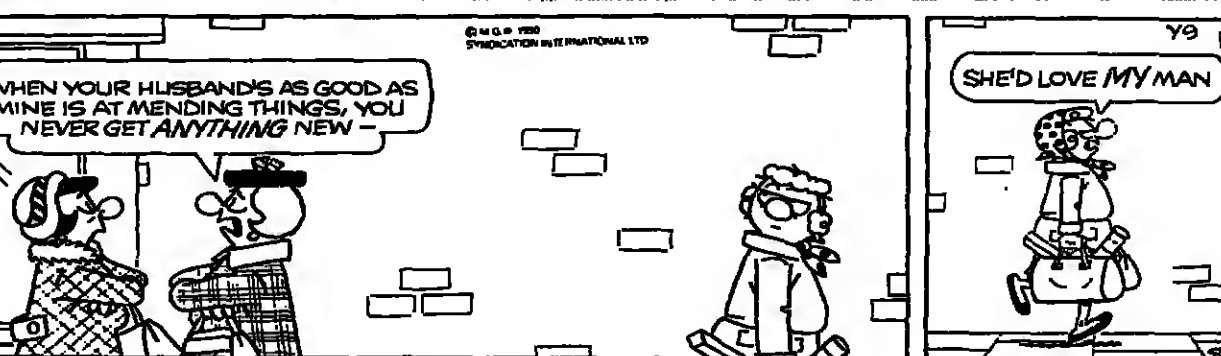
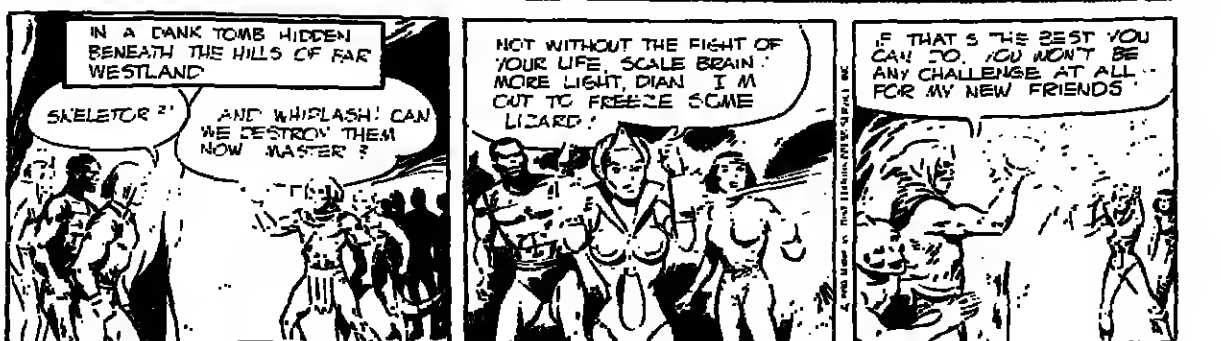
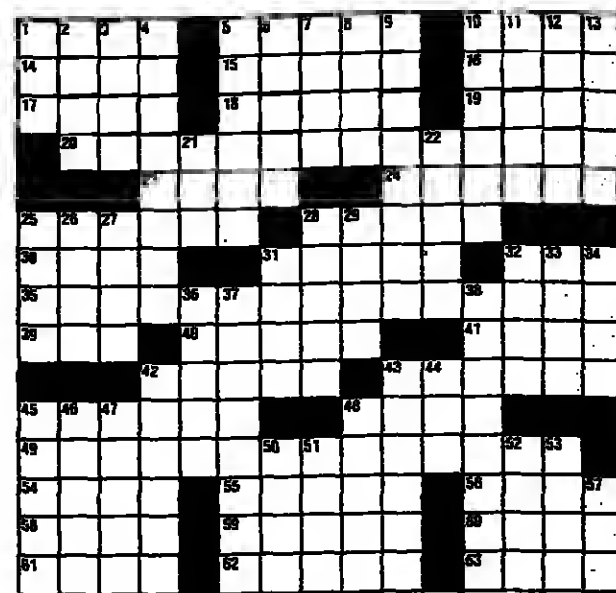
It was unanimously decided among the members to select the following office bearers for PPC New Kheitan branch. Master Fath Khan — (president); Raja Mohammad Anwar — (vice-president); Mohammed Ashraf Shah — (gen. secy.); Malik Shuja ud Din — (joint secy.); Zabeer Dad Raj — (press secy.); Abdul Aziz — (office secy.); Khizar Hayat Gondal — (treasurer).

تنبی

Tenby

تنبی

MADE IN ENGLAND

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Fortin & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD****ACROSS**

- 1 Killer whale
- 5 Villainous one
- 10 Wading bird
- 14 Actual
- 15 Fervor
- 16 Demolish
- 17 Prickle
- 18 Scrounge
- 19 Earthen jar
- 20 1972 Woody Allen film
- 23 Composar
- 24 Given to reveria
- 25 Ruined
- 28 Deduce
- 30 Raise
- 31 Warmer von
- 32 Conjunction
- 35 Eric Berne's 1964 book
- 39 Summer, in Paris
- 40 American author Stephen
- 41 Vishnu avatar
- 42 Copenhagen coin
- 43 Released
- 45 Piercing cry
- 48 Word with left or right
- 49 1971 Clint Eastwood film
- 54 Restrain
- 55 Young salmon
- 56 Exile Isla
- 58 Gaelic
- 59 Weird
- 60 Smit
- 61 Suppliments, with "out"
- 62 Inhibit
- 63 Dispatched

DOWN

- 1 Globe
- 2 Harvest
- 3 Olympic sprinter
- 4 Type of tuna
- 5 Glib
- 6 Angry
- 7 Norse poetry collection
- 8 Egg beverage
- 9 Dira
- 10 Mengie
- 11 Light wood
- 12 Muslim faith
- 13 Sordid
- 21 Companion of hither
- 22 Peace goddess
- 25 Prod
- 26 Shipshape
- 27 Margot
- 28 Parture
- 29 Neck part
- 31 Pinto, for one
- 32 Too bad!
- 33 Cognomen
- 34 Couple
- 36 Get out!
- 37 Pledged
- 38 Forward movement
- 42 Economist John Maynard
- 43 Engine part
- 44 Yoko
- 45 Bings
- 46 Salesperson
- 47 Poker term
- 48 American poet
- 50 "Peter Pan" pirate
- 51 Civil wrong
- 52 Young lady
- 53 Diplomat Abba
- 57 Adroit

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

TEPID ARGO BEIS
ARENA MIRA ILITA
JOLLY HODGE LEVI
STATE ABSOLVED
WONG EMILY
COS NERA AEGEAN
OREB WAGON OSLO
MILLO SAN ATILI
TOMB SPIKE TEAS
ENABLE NAVE RYE
YOLK PALE
COMPILED NAVE
ALAI EVENSTEVEN
LEAN RICE ERODE
MOSES SNOB STEAD

GOREN BRIDGE**BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF**
COMBINE YOUR CHANCES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 5
♥ A 7 6 5
♦ A J 9
♣ A K J 10

WEST
♠ Q 8 6 2
♥ Q J 10 8
♦ 6 2
♣ 9 5 2

EAST
♠ 4
♥ K 9 4 3 2
♦ 8 7 3
♣ 8 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A K J 9 7 3
♥ Void
♦ K Q 10 5 4
♣ Q 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 3 ♥ NT Pass
4 ♦ Pass 5 NT Pass
7 ♦ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
Just because you have found a reasonable line for your contract is no reason to commit yourself to it. First check to see if there isn't a better one, or a secondary line that can be combined with the principal chance you have uncovered.

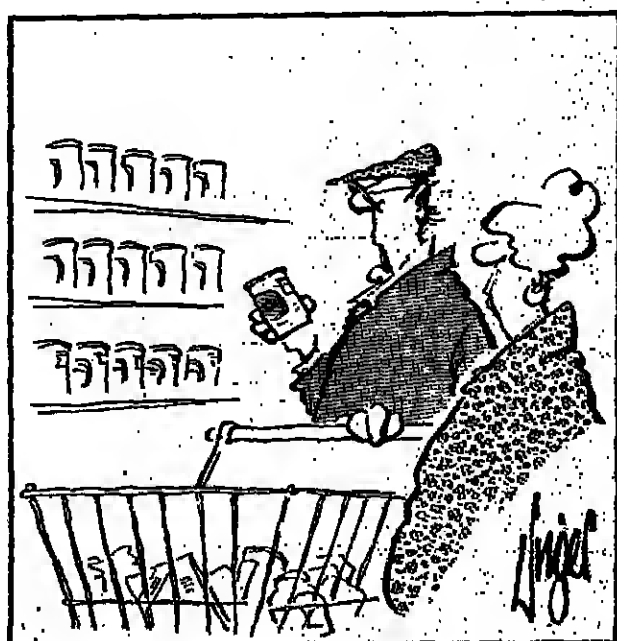
North-South bid the hand well. North's three hearts was a waiting bid to see how the auction would progress. When South confirmed at least a five-card diamond suit North

used the Grand Slam Force to check on whether South held both missing high trump honors.

West led the queen of hearts, taken by the ace as declarer discarded a spade. It seemed the contract hinged on finding spades no worse than 3-2 or dropping the queen singleton. So declarer drew two rounds of trumps, then tried to cash the ace and king of spades. East ruffed for down one. (Declarer was later able to take the marked ruffing finesse for West's queen of spades to avoid a second undertrick.)

Not a bad line. However, the high trumps in dummy should have suggested the possibility of a dummy reversal. For that to succeed declarer would need little more than a 3-2 trump break. What's more, if the dummy reversal could not succeed, declarer could still fall back on the spade suit.

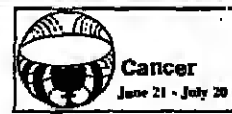
After cashing a trump at trick two declarer should ruff a heart high and return to dummy with the nine of trumps. When both defenders follow declarer should ruff another heart, then use two high clubs as entries to ruff the last heart and draw the outstanding trump. The two remaining club winners and the ace-king of spades bring declarer's total to 13.



"This one's 10 percent real food."

YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 20
You have less time than you think and should therefore try to speed things up. However be sure not to sacrifice quality for the sake of speed. Do not leave your partner in any doubt about your love. Be innovative.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
Rather than think there is no more to learn, you should make every effort to learn more. A problem you thought had been solved will reemerge. You will have a good idea and it might make all the difference. Be less extravagant.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Once you realize that you require a new technique to do the job you are well on the way to dealing with it. Instead of resisting change you should welcome it. Unless it is definitely a change for the worse. Be sincere.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
You are more prone to lose things so take care you keep track of them. Do not keep others waiting for a reply to their letters. Whilst nothing is going quite the way you would have wished, some things will turn out to proceed unexpectedly well. Be tactful.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
If you ask for more than you deserve you will probably get less than you have expected. Your lucky numbers are 11 and 35. You are more liable to spill things, so beware. You should be prepared for some changes, on good fighting against them. Be sociable.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21
You will have to deal with a rather intransigent person but you will get most of your way in the end. Make sure you do not neglect your personal hygiene. Try not to become involved in other people's problems. Be fair.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
You should do your best not to lose touch with a friend who has moved to another town. You should resist a temptation to postpone until tomorrow something you know well should be done today. Do not expect others to do all you would wish them to do.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
You will have to make a difficult decision but it would be wrong to try to avoid making it. And the longer you leave it the more difficult it will become. You should be prepared to give others the benefit of any doubt. Be prepared to face the facts.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
You will be able to make good progress but only if you really concentrate on what you are doing. Better a little more slowly but a lot more surely. Do not permit yourself to be distracted. Be dependable.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You can make up for lost time if you really concentrate on what you are doing. Better a little more slowly but a lot more surely. Do not permit yourself to be distracted. Be dependable.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will feel that you will never learn something that is proving extremely difficult. However do not despair, instead persevere. Do your best not to be late for an appointment. Be prompt.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
There is more chance of a misunderstanding so do make your meaning clear. Take a little better care of your health. Keep off spicy foods, too. Do not allow a slight setback to discourage you altogether. Be creative.



"What was that big crash in the kitchen?"



"Is it OK if I run out and stick a few coins in the old parking meter?"

Christie gets damages, Johnson sued by agent

Ottey, Gasser triumph in style

MADRID, Spain, March 14, (AP): Jamaican sprinter Merlene Ottey and Swiss middle-distance runner Sandra Gasser logged the year's best indoor women's times in their events yesterday at the Cagigal Memorial International Track Meet.

Ottey won the 60-metre dash in 7.08 seconds, outpacing US-born Sandra Myers of Spain, who ran it in 7.23, and another Spanish sprinter, Cristina Castro, who finished third in 7.35.

Gasser ran the year's fastest indoor 1,000 in 2 minutes 37.10 seconds. Monsterrat Pujol of Spain finished in 2:44.61 to edge out European champion Elyvan Hulst of the Netherlands for second place.

Ottey already holds the year's top time in the 200, in which she is

the reigning world indoor champion. Gasser holds the fourth-fastest time ever in the 1,000, 2:31.51.

In the men's 60, Chidi Imoh of Nigeria ran a 6.55 time to beat Raymond Stewart of Jamaica, second in 6.59, and Pier Francesco Pavoni of Italy, third in 6.63.

World indoor champion Andres Simon of Cuba finished fourth in 6.68, while Calvin Smith of the United States was fifth in 6.69.

World record holder Lee McRae of the United States finished third in one of three qualifying heats at 6.84 and did not make the finals.

Moroccan Said Aouita, who has set world records at distances

from 1,500 to 5,000 metres, won the 1,500 in 3:45.58, well off his 3:29.46 mark. The second-place finisher was Kipkoech Cheruiyot of Kenya, who ran the event in 3:46.01. He was followed by Angel Farinas of Spain at 3:46.68.

In the men's 60-metre hurdles, Renaldo Nehemiah of the United States outran compatriots Roger Kingdom, the world indoor champion, and Jack Pierce. Nehemiah finished in 7.54, followed by Kingdom in 7.60 and Pierce in 7.65.

Andrew Valmon and Danny Harris of the United States finished one-two in the 400 ahead of Caetano Cornet of Spain. Valmon was clocked at 46.84, Harris at 46.85 and Cornet at 47.30.

World indoor champion

Larry Myricks of the United States won the long jump with a leap of 8.16. Antonio Cervantes of Spain set a national record with his second-place, 8.12-metre jump. Jaime Jefferson of Cuba was third with a distance of 7.84.

In Toronto, disgraced sprinter Ben Johnson has been sued for breach of contract and damages of \$425,000 by his Canadian agent.

Toronto-based Communique Ltd negotiated Canadian contracts for Johnson, who was stripped of the gold medal he won in the 100 metres at the Seoul Olympics for taking banned steroids.

US companies Heritage Sports, Heritage Group Inc and Diversified Equities Ltd., which hold the runner's world-wide rights, are also being sued.

Communique has also asked a Canadian court to freeze the runner's trust fund which is held by the Canadian Track and Field Association. The size of that fund has not been disclosed.

"There was money owed from these contracts and we feel we are entitled to our fee. Had he continued to compete and not been stripped of his medals we would have received fees," Glen Calkins, Communique vice-president said yesterday.

"We've been around the block a few times and have not been able to settle with his lawyers. It is regrettable and we hoped it would never come to this but we are looking to resolve this and get on with things," Calkins said.

Communique says it has paid Johnson for a promotional film

which they feel is no longer saleable.

The company is also saying Johnson breached an agreement that he race lawfully in accordance with the rules and regulations of various sports bodies.

Johnson was suspended from international competition for two years after his disqualification at the Seoul Olympics in September 1988.

And in London, British Olympic sprinter and Commonwealth Games gold medalist Linford Christie won court damages from the London police yesterday for unlawful arrest and libel.

The black athlete, who had been wrongly accused of stealing a hire car in 1988, said afterwards the police had acted out of "hysterical racism."

A lawyer for the police told the court that the car had been mistakenly reported stolen by the rental company. The police regretted that Christie had been arrested, he said.

Christie's lawyer, Geoffrey Bindman, said the athlete asked the police to check with the rental company but instead he was taken to a police station and detained for about half an hour before being released on bail.

After police discovered the car was not stolen, he was told he need not appear in court.

But three days later a police spokesman, without naming Christie, gave information about the arrest to the Daily Mirror which enabled the newspaper to deduce he had been arrested and publish a report.

"Plainly, this amounted to serious libel," said Bindman.



Christie (left) gets 'five-figure' damages



Sandra Gasser

Karpov, Timman adjourn 4th game

KUALA LUMPUR, March 14, (Reuters): Former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union and Jan Timman of the Netherlands adjourned the fourth game of the World Candidates Chess Final after 61 moves yesterday.

Karpov, playing the white pieces, opened yesterday's game with the queen pawn and Timman defended the black pieces with a grunged defence.

Karpov then made an unexpected retreat with his bishop on his 15th move to pressure the weakened black squares on Timman's position. After the exchange of bishops, the position was clearly in Karpov's favour.

On the 25th move, Timman offered a pawn sacrifice to complicate the game. After a long pause, Karpov declined the offer, choosing to increase his pressure on the C-file.

With only eight minutes each for the remaining nine moves to the time control at 40 moves, Karpov exchanged rooks and the worst seemed over for Timman. Both players were content to mark time with king moves until they reached the 40th move.

In the second session of play, the position simplified considerably. Karpov, realising he had lost his winning chances in the first session, offered to exchange queens. Timman responded by moving his own queen away, an indication that he felt a win for him was not totally impossible.

With his 50th move, Timman brought his knight to the king-side to prepare a breakthrough with his pawn.

In a sudden reversal, Karpov broke through on the king-side with his queen. He then had two passed pawns on the king-side whereas Timman had two passed queen-side pawns.

Timman offered an exchange of queens which Karpov, very short on time, obliged. Timman seemed to have the better of the endgame but a careless move on his 59th move allowed Karpov the chance to stop Timman's pawns.

The game adjourned with Timman sealing his 61st move and will continue tomorrow. Karpov leads by two points to Timman's one. The winner of each game gets one point with 0.5 point for a draw.

And in Reykjavik, favourites the Soviet Union could manage only a draw with Nordic countries, but they retained a narrow lead over the United States and Britain after the fourth round of a summit team tournament yesterday.

Britain took an early commanding position in their match against the United States but the Americans again showed resilience to win the three games and keep the loss to a minimum.

Japan finish with 18 gold medals

SAPPORO, Japan, March 14, (AP): Japan's Fumiko Aoki skied to her third cross country gold medal today in the final event of the Asian Winter Games, and Japan ended up with 18 of the Games' 33 golds.

Its main rivals, however, improved their medal harvest sharply from the first Asian Winter Games four years ago, when Japan won 29 of 35 golds at stake.

China finished with nine golds, compared with four in 1986. South Korea ended with six, compared with one in the last Games.

Mongolia won a bronze in a cross country ski relay race, the first medal won in the Winter Games by a nation other than Japan, China or North or South Korea.

North Korea, due to be host for the next Winter Games in 1995, won no gold this time. It had one in 1986.

Aoki won the women's 15-kilometre cross country ski race in 48 minutes, 15.3 seconds, completing a Japanese sweep of the Games' six cross country ski races. Japan also won all four Alpine ski races.

Aoki already had golds from the women's 10-kilometre race and the 4x5-kilometre relay.

Teammate Naomi Hoshikawa was second in 50:24.4 and China's Wang Jinfen was third in 51:03.0.

Japanese speed skater Seiko Hashimoto, describing herself as exhausted after a recent series of world championship races, still came out of these Games with the biggest gold haul — four.

Hashimoto, who placed second overall in the world championships, won the women's 500-, 1,000-, 1,500- and 3,000-metre races here.

Besides Aoki, other triple gold medalists were Japanese cross country skier Kazunari Sasaki and two short track speed skaters — South Korea's Kim Ki-Hoon and China's Wang Xuli.

Sasaki's golds came in the men's 15- and 30-kilometre races and 4x10-kilometre relay.

Kim won the men's short track 1,000- and 1,500-metre and joined the winning South Korean 5,000-metre relay team. Wang won the women's 500- and 1,000-metre races and received her third gold for the 3,000 relay.

In standard speed skating, world sprint champion Bae Ki-Tae of South Korea won two golds, in the men's 1,000- and 1,500-metre races, after being upset by China's Song Chen in the 500.

Hashimoto and Bae each broke two Games records here.

Bae talked of "leaving the rink" to enter a Japanese university in September, but Korean officials said they hoped he would skate in the 1992 Olympics and win Korea's first gold medal ever in the Winter Olympics.

China repeated as the Games ice hockey champion, defeating Japan 4-2 on two third-period goals in the gold-medal game last night.

It picked up two golds in the soldierier sport of biathlon — shooting and cross country skiing — and five in short track speed skating.

South Korea won four golds on the short track.

Japan had sent its top short track skaters to compete in the World Championships in Belgium, but still managed to win one gold here.

Unlike in 1986, there was no figure skating competition this time. These Games conflicted with the World Championships in Halifax, Canada, where Japan's Midori Ito sought to defend her women's singles title.

Despite winning the short programme and the free skating competition, she ended up second this time because of a poor performance in compulsory figures.

The Games suffered a few embarrassments. At a victory ceremony for a South Korean short track speed skater on the first day last Friday, the public address system first played the Mongolian and North Korean anthems before getting the right one. The organizers formally apologized to South Korea and then rechecked the labels of all their tapes.

In yesterday's 10,000-metre speed skating, officials mistakenly signaled to Japan's Kazuhiro Sato that he had one lap to go when actually he had two. After Sato thought he had finished and slowed down, his coaches sent him back for one more lap. He still ended up winning his second gold medal.

A brawl erupted in Sunday night's ice hockey game between North Korea and Japan after North Korea's Ko Yong Nam hit a Japanese player in the eye with his stick. Ko was given a game penalty and then banned from North Korea's final game, which it lost to South Korea yesterday. North Korea voluntarily benched another player, Pak Chang Duk, acknowledging that he used his stick in the brawl. Five other North Koreans and five Japanese each drew five minute penalties for fighting.

Athletes and officials from North and South Korea made friendly contacts at the Games but there is no chance of the two Koreas sending a unified team to Summer Games in Beijing in September, a South Korean official said today.

Chang Myoung-Hi, deputy leader of the South Korean delegation to the Winter Games described the conversations as "very friendly."

In a separate interview, Pak Myong Chol, head of North Korea's delegation, said, "I met with South Korean high-ranking officials in natural form here."

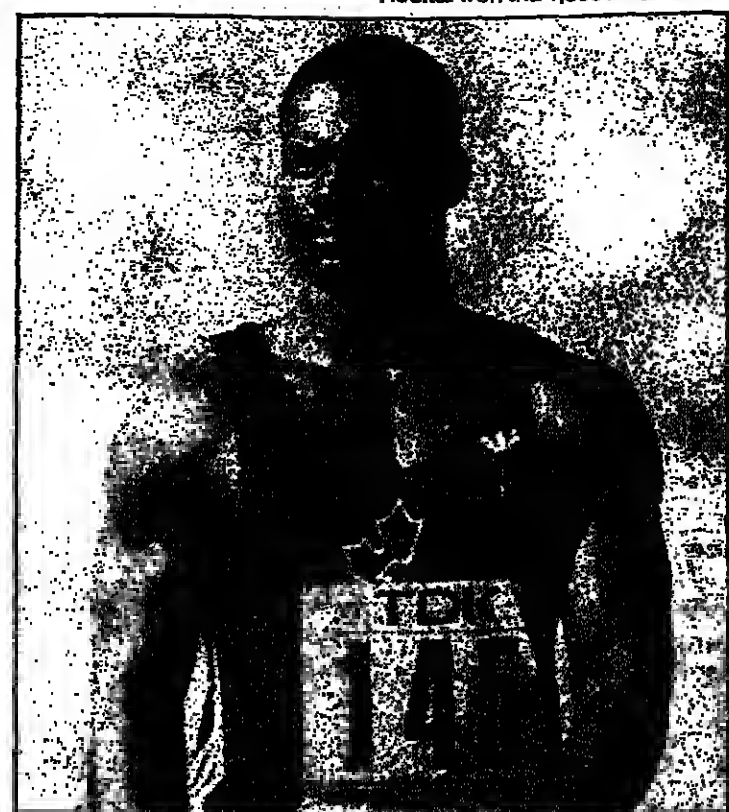
He said it was "good to form a unified team for sports meets," but did not specify any future meet in which the communist North and Capitalist south, divided since 1945, might join in a single team.

Pak also promised that by 1995 the facilities "will be beautifully completed."

He said, "the temperature at Samjiyeon, 2000 metres (6,562 feet) above sea level, is pretty low now but we still have enough time. When it becomes warmer, the preparations will be resumed under the concrete plan."



Aouita won the 1,500 metres race



Johnson, sued for breach of contract

Butcher set to break own record

ELIM, Alaska, March 14, (AP): Three-time winner Susan Butcher led the Iditarod trail sled dog race yesterday and defending champion Joe Rynyan stayed in dogged pursuit as the two mushed onto the wind-swept Seward peninsula.

Butcher pulled onto a lead at 11:51 am (2:37 GMT) and Rynyan followed at 12:26 pm (2:36 GMT) having been before Rynyan arrived looking fresh.

"Yeah, I think I'll go another," Rynyan said, stopping only long enough to load a large dog food on his sled.

Butcher told race officials she thought she had a chance to reach Nome before 11:00 am (2:06 GMT) today to break her 1987 record of 11 days, 2 hours and 5 minutes. However, she dropped one dog at the checkpoint and continuing on with a team of 11 compared to Rynyan's 15.

Butcher has retained the lead she grabbed overnight in the treacherous crossing of ice-covered Norton Sound. The first to cross the finish line, put front sled on Nome, collects a \$50,000 first prize.

Butcher credited a stiff head wind blowing from Norton Sound the night before for allowing her to break in front. Her dogs are well-known for bearing up better than others under storm conditions.

"I always look forward to the race up the coast," she said of the last 100 miles (161 kilometres) of the 1,158-mile (1,864-kilometre) race that began in Anchorage.

A Soviet musher, Alexander Reznuk, of Trovideniya, was flown over the trail to observe the race as a guest of the Iditarod Trail Association.

Norton Sound is a crucial point in the race, where some mushers head out onto the ice rather than following the coast to save time and miles.

Named for an abandoned gold-mining town along the trail, the Iditarod was started in 1973 to commemorate the 1925 emergency delivery of life-saving diphtheria serum from Anchorage to Nome by sled dog teams running in relays.

Rose wants to get into baseball Hall of Fame

INDIANAPOLIS, March 14, (AP): Former Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose, facing his first season out of baseball since 1963, says he is in no hurry to apply for reinstatement, but is anxious to get into the Hall of Fame.

"As I stand here right now, I'm really not interested in going back down on the field. I'm anticipating the Hall of Fame. You don't need to be reinstated to go to the Hall of Fame," Rose said yesterday during a news conference.

While he isn't worried about his own status, Rose said he doesn't want his suspension to mar the possible Hall of Fame election of former Reds teammate Tom Seaver.

"I don't want to put any kind of cloud over the Hall of Fame induction of Tom Seaver, who's eligible the same year I am. That would be another reason to try to be reinstated."

Rose and Seaver, both of whom last played in 1986, would be eligible for election after the 1991 season.

Rose, baseball's career hit leader, was banned for life from baseball last Aug 24 for illegal gambling, but will be eligible to apply for reinstatement after one year. He said he hasn't decided on whether to apply.

"I don't understand why August would be a good time to apply for reinstatement because what's available for an ex-baseball player in August?" Rose said. "The only job that would be available would be a team that's 35 games out of first place. You're not going to be able to take over a first-place team."

Rose now lives in Plant City, Florida, home of the Reds' spring training camp, where he spends his days playing golf and working on his tan. He also plans to start a radio show in Cincinnati on March 22.

"Gold's a perfect game for a guy that likes sunshine and has got a lot of time. I play golf everyday," he said.

Rose continues to be treated by a psychiatrist for his gambling addiction, but he maintains he never bet on baseball.

"Hey, all I did was bet on some football games and basketball games," he said.

Holyfield latest to launch court action

PATERSON, N.J., March 14, (Reuters): Evander Holyfield, the number one heavyweight contender, and his promoter have become the latest entries in courtroom battling surrounding the first heavyweight title defence by James "Buster" Douglas.

Holyfield and his promoter, Main Events/Monitor, have filed for a temporary restraining order against Douglas, boxing promoter Don King, the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas and others to prevent them from interfering with purse bids for Douglas' mandated title defence against Holyfield.

A hearing on the suit has been scheduled for today in New Jersey Superior Court in Paterson, according to a statement issued by the Holyfield camp yesterday.

In order to gain permission to fight Mike Tyson for the title last month in Tokyo, Douglas agreed to fight Holyfield, the mandatory challenger, within 120 days, the statement said.

Douglas, who won the crown with a stunning knockout of Tyson in Tknyn, has said he prefers to wait until September before returning to the ring. Holyfield's handlers say the bout should take place in June.

The latest court action follows suit by Douglas' camp to deny a series of options claimed by King and a countersuit from the flam-

boyant promoter. Billionaire real estate magnate Donald Trump has also taken court action to make sure his Atlantic City casino does not lose the next Tyson fight to Las Vegas.

"While Don King and others have been scrambling to obtain the rights to Douglas, they have tied each other, and Douglas, up in litigation," Holyfield promoter Dan Duva said in the statement. "Meanwhile, they all seem eager to ignore and even trample on the rights of Evander Holyfield."

Holyfield manager Ken Sanders said: "Any delay ... could injure Evander. Boxing history is full of boxers who were denied their opportunity for a title shot."

The Holyfield camp says bids should be made next month.

The purse bid procedure is used where no contract between a title holder and challenger make bids, with the highest bidder taking the bout and the purse distributed 75 per cent to the champion and 25 per cent to the challenger.

Meanwhile, Douglas wants to enjoy his undisputed title for a while before returning to the ring to defend the championship.

"I am working out three months prior to the title fight (with Tyson) and only now I'm finding time to relax, sit back and actually absorb it all. I haven't

had time to do that," said Douglas, who prefers to put off fighting until September.

"Right now it's all up in the air as far as who I'll be fighting, but I want the first to be Holyfield. I'd like to give him the first shot at my title and then, I don't know, it could be Tyson, it could be someone else," he said coyly at a news conference yesterday.

Douglas was in Washington to promote a sports auction to raise money for hospital programmes for babies born addicted to drugs. Among the items sold was Douglas' WBC championship belt, which fetched \$12,000.

With his defence plans currently on hold, Douglas said he was continuing with his usual training regimen, "doing as I always do, running, getting a little gym work in, working on the bag, shadow boxing and jumping rope."

Douglas' manager, John Johnson, was the picture of confidence as he deflected questions about his fighter's tendency to gain weight during long layoffs.

"He'll be in shape and kick whoever's you-know-what when the time comes," Johnson said. "Holyfield seems to be a nice young man, but he won't go five rounds with James Douglas, neither will Mike Tyson the next time, and neither will (Donovan) 'Razor' Ruddock."



Douglas wants to fight Holyfield



Boring conference

Former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali covers his mouth with his hand as he yawns during a press conference for a promotional boxing bout in Jakarta yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

West Indies, England Test abandoned

GEORGETOWN, March 14, (Reuters): The second Test between West Indies and England was abandoned after rain washed out the first three days, but the team were to play two one-day internationals today and tomorrow.

Both sides agreed that rather than play the final two days of the Test match, two competitive matches would be a better option for players and spectators.

The decision followed a proposal by England tour manager Peter Lush to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control. The Test, only the fifth to be abandoned without a ball being bowled because of bad weather, was called off last night.

If the one-day matches are not also affected by rain, England are expected to use them to give all their players match practice.

England, 1-0 up in the five-match Test series, have only one first-class match, against a President's XI, before the third Test starts in Trinidad on March 23 and are becoming anxious.

"We were prepared to do anything to get some cricket after a week of inactivity," said team manager Mick Stewart.

The sides have not yet decided whether the matches will form part of the official one-day series which was cut from five to three matches after rain forced the first two in Trinidad to be abandoned.

West Indies currently lead the series 2-0.

Crowe fighting to recover from injury

Rain hits Hadlee's last home Test

WELLINGTON, March 14, (Reuters): Champion New Zealand pace bowler Richard Hadlee's last home Test will be a shortened affair, with torrential rain in Wellington over the past two days certain to delay the start of a one-off Test match against Australia tomorrow.

There is no possibility of play starting on time at 10.30 am (2130 GMT), match referee Earle Cooper told Reuters today. "But if present weather conditions continue, there'll definitely be playing later in the day."

Officials were earlier talking of abandoning the first day's play after Wellington was soaked by heavy rain which flooded local rivers over a 48-hour period. But the rain stopped and the weather is improving.

Hadlee, the only player to have taken 400 Test wickets, has kept the cricket world guessing about whether he will go on New Zealand's tour of England starting in May. "Logic would suggest that I won't go to England," he said yesterday, but declined to be drawn on his specific plans. "What I have said is that it will be my last match in New Zealand."

Scattered showers forced both teams to practice indoors for the second consecutive day. Moisture seeped under the covers leaving the Basin Reserve wicket block damp in two or three places and the outfield was sodden after being almost covered by water 24 hours earlier.

Star New Zealand batsman Martin Crowe, who has scored 11 Test centuries, is fighting to



Hadlee: To play for last time in a Test in New Zealand

recover from a thigh muscle injury suffered last Saturday in a one-day match against Australia.

His elder brother Jeff is on standby to take his place in the Test team.

New Zealand captain John Wright said Martin Crowe struggled to bat at an indoor net practice this morning and he would require more physiotherapy. "He really did struggle today

so I think he was quite a problem," Wright said. "But we may be able to give him more time."

Even if Martin Crowe fails to make the Test lineup, New Zealand will have the services of Hadlee, top order batsman Andrew Jones and off-spinner John Bracewell—all key players who missed the drawn Test against Australia in Perth last November.



Crowe: may not be able to recover in time for the Test

Australia, fresh from winning a triangular one-day series against New Zealand and India, are confident after beating Pakistan one-nil in a Test series at home earlier this year.

Both teams will name their playing eleven tomorrow morning.

Squads: New Zealand: John Wright (captain), Trevor Franklin, Andrew Jones, Martin Crowe,

Mark Greatbatch, Ken Rutherford, Jeff Thomson, Ian Smith, Shane Thomson, Richard Hadlee, John Bracewell, Martin Snedden, Danny Morrison.

Australia: Allan Border (captain), Geoff Marsh, Mark Taylor, Dean Jones, David Boon, Steve Waugh, Simon O'Donnell, Ian Healy, Peter Taylor, Greg Campbell, Terry Alderman, Carl Rackemann, Merv Hughes.

Spain to spend \$382m on security

BARCELONA, Spain, March 14, (AP): Spain plans to spend 42 billion pesetas (\$382 million) for security at the 1992 Olympics and Seville's Expo '92, a top official said yesterday.

State secretary for security Rafael Vera told reporters the national police force was having trouble finding lodging for the 10,000 officers going to Barcelona to provide security during the Summer Olympic Games.

Vera, who presided over a meeting of the Olympic Security Commission, said food and lodging for the officers going to Barcelona and Seville was expected to cost 8 billion pesetas (\$72.7 million).

The bulk of the security budget for the events — 34 billion pesetas (\$309 million) — was earmarked for new equipment, he said.

The Summer Olympic Games open July 25, 1992, and run for two weeks.

Expo '92 is set to open April 12 and end Oct. 1992 — 500 years to the day Christopher Columbus reached San Salvador Island in the Caribbean at the end of his first trans-Atlantic voyage.

Goodwill Games

WASHINGTON, March 14, (AP): Organisers of the Goodwill Games said after a White House meeting yesterday there is a good chance President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will visit the competition this summer in Seattle.

"The feeling at the White House is very favourable," said the Rev. William J. Sullivan, chairman of the board of directors for the Seattle organising committee.

Zaheer takes Meridien past Cantt

MERIDIEN Cricket Club brushed aside Cantt by 41 runs in a friendly match at the Salmiya ground on Friday.

Meridien batted first and scored 166 runs for the loss of six wickets. Zaheer was the top scorer with 66 including a six and ten fours while Choudhary and Afzal scored 38 and 22 not out respectively.

For Cantt, Amer grabbed three wickets while Sajid got two. Cantt never got on top of the Meridien bowlers, led by an accurate Zaheer and Liaquat. Cantt tried to put up some resistance but were finally bowled out for only 125 runs, in 20 overs.

For Meridien, Zaheer and Liaquat bowled extremely well and the Cantt batsmen were in all sorts of trouble while facing them. Zaheer and Liaquat took three wickets each while John and Raz-zak took one wicket apiece.

IVCC triumph

Indian Veterans Cricket Club, led by Ganju, defeated Bader Mulla Cricket Club in a friendly match at Salmiya grounds on Friday.

After winning the toss, IVCC invited Bader Mulla to bat first, but their start was shaky as they lost six of their top-order batsmen for only 58 runs in 8 overs. In the end they managed to score 130 runs in their allotted 30 overs. For IVCC Patel was their top bowler with 4 wickets while Rajpal got 2 and Arun one.

Required to make 130 runs in 30 overs with an asking rate of 4.3, IVCC started well with the senior most player Dr Suri scoring 25 not out. Ghosh also batted well by making a brisk 25, and they crossed their target in their allotted overs. Most of the IVCC players are above forty years.

Siddique win
Siddique Cricket Club beat New Pak to move into the semifinals of the Quaid-e-Millat Trophy, which they have won for the last two years.

New Pak won the toss and elected to bat but ran into some accurate bowling from Khalid and Tariq and the whole team was out for 150.

Tariq and Khalid were in excellent form, taking four wickets each for 25 and 22 runs respectively. Amjad and Mukesh chipped in with a wicket each.

Shahid kept on batting well and scored 47 before he was out. Khalid also did his bit with the bat by scoring an unbeaten 19 while Tariq scored 19 also. Siddique



Zaheer: hit 66



Khalid: four wickets

were also helped by some weak New Pak fielding which resulted in 21 extras.

Pakistan Trophy

The Pakistan Resolution Trophy Cricket Tournament will start at the Nadi Al Nasser, Jeech Shuyoukh, tomorrow. Officials from the Pakistan embassy are expected to attend the event.

Teams taking part in the tournament are Pakistan Central Cricket Club, Farwaniya XI, Quaid-e-Millat and Kheitan Eleven.

Wilander takes a break from tennis

STOCKHOLM, March 14, (Reuters): Former world number one Mats Wilander is taking a break from tennis for at least a month because he is lacking motivation, a Swedish newspaper reported today.

Wilander, ranked number one in 1988 after winning three of the four Grand Slam tournaments, has withdrawn from the International Players' Championships which start in Key Biscayne, Florida, on Friday.

"I am taking at least a month off," Wilander told the daily Göteborgs-Posten. He said he would not return to the circuit "until I feel like playing again — whether it takes a couple of weeks or months."

"I am only physically on the court, but I couldn't think about the game," Wilander said of his first-round exit from the Indian Wells tournament last week where he lost to fellow Swede Jan Gunnarsson in straight sets.

Wilander took a similar break last year but has failed to regain his 1988 form.

Last month he lost a decisive singles match against Paolo Cane in Cagliari which gave Italy an unexpected Davis Cup first round victory over Sweden.

Wilander said he was not considering giving up tennis. "I have promised myself to give it another try in a serious way," he said.

Super Bowl site

ORLANDO, Florida, March 14, (AP): Phoenix won out over Los Angeles and San Diego and was awarded the 1993 Super Bowl by the National Football League owners yesterday.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said the owners voted in part to play football's annual championship game in Phoenix in 1993 because of a desire for variety.

"There's a feeling that we'd like to move it around," he said of the game, which will be played in Sun Devil Stadium, located in Tempe, in suburban Phoenix.

Next year's Super Bowl will be played in Tampa and the 1992 game is in Minneapolis.

Bologna take European basketball title

FLORENCE, Italy, March 14, (Reuters): Italy's Virtus Bologna shrugged off the loss of captain Roberto Brunamonti to beat Spanish holders Real Madrid 79-74 in the European Men's Basketball Cup-winners' Cup final yesterday.

Brunamonti was carried off the court midway through the second half after damaging his ankle in a fall.

Bologna, who led by 11 points at halftime, owed their victory largely to the accuracy of veteran American Michael "Sugar" Richardson who scored eight three-pointers among his 29 points.

Madrid, who have lost three key players since last year's final, were unable to counter Richardson, who was devastating outside the arc and scored five of his eight three-pointers before the interval.

Richardson was ably supported by compatriot and pivot Clemon Johnson, who scored eight points.

Bologna's best local player was playmaker Claudio Coldebella, whose six successful free shots

in a row helped his side to their halftime lead. Madrid rallied in the second half, using the speed of their young Americans Tony Frederick and Michael Anderson on the counter attack.

Anderson netted a series of free shots in the final five minutes, but his efforts were not enough to catch Bologna, who raced off the court at the final whistle as it was invaded by delighted supporters.

The Cup was the Italians' first major title in their third European final.

Teams: Virtus Bologna — Roberto Brunamonti, Massimiliano Romboli, Claudio Coldebella, Tommaso Tasso, Michael Sylvester, Michael Richardson, Augusto Binelli, Clemon Johnson, Clivo Righi, Vittorio Gallinari, Lauro Bonn.

Real Madrid — Jose Luis Llorente, Michael Anderson, Fernando Romay, Miguel Angel Cabral, Ismael Santos, Javier Perez, Enrique Villalobos, Jose Cargol, Anthony Frederick, Antonio Martin.

Top Europeans to miss PGA tourney

PONTE VEDRA, Florida, March 14, (AP): The major European stars are conspicuous by their absence this week in the showcase event of the American PGA Tour, the Players Championship.

Masters champion Nick Faldo of England is missing. So are Seve Ballesteros of Spain, Bernhard Langer of West Germany and Ian Woosnam of Wales.

All are eligible for the tournament that begins tomorrow on the TPC at Sawgrass, the home course for America's touring pros. But none will play in the event that is billed as the annual championship of golf's touring pros. It ranks as the most important tournament produced solely by the PGA Tour.

And, as if to emphasise their displeasure with the American Tour's hierarchy, all the Europeans plan to play next week at Bay Hill in Orlando, Florida.

Their absence hasn't gone unnoticed. "In other years, this tournament had the strongest field in golf," two-time US Open champion Curtis Strange said. "But with the Europeans missing, you can't say the same this year."

"From top to bottom, this field has greater depth than any other Tour event, but you can't say it's the strongest at the top with the leading Europeans not here."

It's all part of a continuing rift between the American Tour administration and Europe's leading players.

Faldo and Langer resigned their American Tour memberships late last year. Ballesteros and Woosnam declined proffered memberships.

All have complained of the membership requirement to play 15 American events annually. They say it is too many. As non-members, they are restricted in the number of American events in which they compete.

All will play in the Masters in April, and will start their preparation for the season's first major next week.

They chose not to spend one of their limited number of American Tour appearances on PGA Tour commissioner Deane Beman's principal production.

Beman, who founded the Players Championship, has made no secret of his desire to elevate it to the status of golf's big four, the Masters, US and British Opens and the PGA. All those tournaments are presented by organisations other than the PGA Tour.

While those major players are delaying the start of their abbreviated American schedules, the 144-man field features much of the rest of the world's best.

Chief among them are Strange, Australian Greg Norman, defending champion Tom Kite and current British Open title-holder Mark Caldecchia.

"I played a lot better than I scored last week," Strange said. "I'm playing well enough to win. I'm really ready to go."

Norman won his last time out, a chip-in eagle producing a playoff victory in his last start two weeks ago at Doran.

Caldecchia has been second each of the last two weeks, has three runner-up finishes this season and has been eighth or better in six of eight starts.

Also on hand are leading money-winner Paul Azinger, PGA champion Payne Stewart, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson and 1990 tournament winners Robert Gamez, Mark O'Meara, Peter Jacobsen, Dan Forsman, Fred Couples and John Huston.



Ian Woosnam

LPGA to hold \$1m event

WASHINGTON, March 14, (AP): The Ladies Professional Golf Association yesterday announced its first \$1 million purse will be paid at the Mazda LPGA Championship.

The tournament will be played this year at a suburban Maryland course first organised by women. "Golf is the fastest growing sport in the world," George McCabe, a vice-president of Mazda Motor of America Inc., said. "Our goal is to make this tournament the most prestigious on the LPGA Tour."

LPGA commissioner William Blue also announced that the tournament will relocate to the Bethesda Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland, a Washington suburb. It has been played at the Jack Nicklaus Sports Centre in Kings Island, Ohio, near Cincinnati for the last 12 years.

The championship, which will be played July 26-29, is the second oldest women's professional golf tournament in the country. The purse and the permanent relocation of the tour-

nament assures a field of 144 professional women golfers, including defending champion Nancy Lopez, officials said.

The \$1 million total purse doubles the \$500,000 in prize money for the 1989 Mazda LPGA Championship, and nearly triples the 1988 purse, officials said. A group of Japanese investors is buying Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club in Orlando, Florida, and various commercial services by the veteran golfer, including appearances and golf-course design.

Palmer, who is majority owner of the exclusive Orlando Golf Facility and Lodge, wouldn't disclose details of the transaction or identities of the investors.

Tony Rogliano, administrative assistant to Palmer, said on Monday that a letter of intent had been signed and that the deal would be completed in May.

Palmer said he would continue to control the club as board chairman and his management company will operate the facilities.

Cash included in Australian Cup squad

BRISBANE, Australia, March 14, (Reuters): Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash has been named in the Australian team for the Davis Cup tennis quarterfinal against New Zealand from March 30 to April 1.

Australian captain Neale Fraser announced at a press conference today that the team would be Darren Cahill, John Fitzgerald and Wally Masur along with Cash.

Fraser decided to forego the usual five-man squad, tipping Mark Kratzmann out of the unit which beat France 3-2 in Perth last month and sticking with the four who won the tie.

The quarterfinal will be played on the Milton grass courts in Brisbane.

Cash has been selected on reputation rather than form or ranking. "He played well in the last tie but since then he hasn't been playing much and his form has been disappointing," Fraser said.

"But Pat has a few more tournaments to get things right — he's playing an exhibition at the moment. He's a great competitor and loves playing Davis Cup, as do all the players."

Fraser said he had spoken to all four players in the past two days.

Crucial KPBL matches scheduled for tomorrow

THE Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) winds up with its elimination round schedules with a series of crucial matches from 9 am tomorrow at the Kaifan High School Gym.

Tomorrow's schedules are as follows:

9:00 am Al Ghanim vs Nissan Al-Babtain
10:30 am EEI vs Trico
12:00 pm KA1 vs KDD
1:30 pm KHC Bayan vs

Overland Trans. Co.
3:00 pm EEI vs KRP
4:30 pm KDD vs Overland Trans. Co. (if required)

In the 1st game Al Ghanim and Nissan battle for that crucial win that could earn them a tie, and possibly a semifinals berth. The winner however would have to wait for the result of the other scheduled games (EEI vs Trico & KA1 vs KRP) to learn of their fate.

The 2nd game is the most interesting game to watch as Trico goes all out to register its 3rd win in 4 games. A win by Trico would assure them of an outright seat in the 4 team single round-robin championship. A loss by Trico would send EEI to



The Trico squad which will meet EEI.

the next round even if the latter loses its game with KRP in the 3:00 pm scheduled match. If this materialises, further complications in team standings will arise and the KPBL Secretariat reminds everyone that if this hap-

pens, rules are going to be strictly implemented.

Equally interesting is the 1:30 pm encounter of KHC-Bayan and Overland Transport Co. KHC-Bayan (2-1) faces a hard fighting Overland 5 with the win-

ner joining early qualifier KPBC (4-0) into the championship round. KHC-Bayan is again expected to be led by X-Ortega, however Overland's Billy Ray-Hulk Hogan Navarro says they are in for a surprise as we shall go

out in stopping their one man army.

In a related development, the KPBL-Pizza Italia All Star Game shall push through the March 23, 1990, Friday as scheduled. The all star line-ups (tentatives) as follows:

Green team: Greg Lugo, Arnel Dingson, Rey Garcia, Celso Tualdes, Tony Zalavarrio, Mat Reyes, Norman Menes, Adolf Calalayay, Alfred Babierra, Eddie Bolito, Jess Osorio, Rolly Galicia, Celso Dequilla, Francisco Peres and Sotico Detera. Danny Caoili (EEI Mentor) has been named the coach for this Green All Star.

Red team: Edwin Castro, Lito de la Cruz, Ric Perez, Emie Domingo, Al Barcelona, Butch Arganoza, Eric Pizarro, Lito Gutierrez, Bong Lingany, Ferdie Abubo, Santiago Ortega, Augusto Navarro, Gregorio Moya, Lamberto Marin, and Joselito Kai. Eddie de la Cruz (KPBC mentor) is the coach for this Red All Star squad.

All All-Star players are advised to report to their respective coaches as soon as possible or face the consequences of being scratched from their respective line-ups.



NHL games

Quebec Nordiques' Tony McKagney (right) uses his elbow to stop Edmonton Oilers' Craig Simpson during their National Hockey League match in Quebec on Tuesday. The result of the League matches were as follows: Montreal Canadiens 4, New York Islanders 2; Edmonton Oilers 4, Quebec Nordiques 1; St Louis Blues 4, Washington Capitals 1; Chicago Black Hawks 3, Detroit Red Wings 3; New Jersey Devils 3, Minnesota North Stars 1; Hartford Whalers 1, Vancouver Canucks 0.

Charlton defends UAE's performance at Arab Gulf Cup

LEGENDARY England and Manchester United star Bobby Charlton defended the UAE's poor showing at the Arab Gulf Cup held in Kuwait earlier this month during an interview on Dubai television.

"This is a very important time for the UAE team and they need to feel the backing of press and the general public for when they go to Italy," Charlton said.

"They have achieved a fantastic thing by getting to the World Cup in the first place and they will be carrying the hopes of the Gulf region with them," Bobby Charlton added.

Charlton made these comments while filming an educational soccer film for the UAFA-Pepsi Football Academy, which will be launched in Saudi Arabia later this year.

He indicated that there were several reasons why the UAE team fared so poorly in Kuwait. Foremost among them was that in the Gulf they are now the team to beat, so other teams make a special effort when playing against the UAE. This would also make the UAE team more nervous.

Another cause was that the UAE players were consciously avoiding injury so they would be fit for playing in Italy.

"I don't think you should be ashamed of your team at the present time," Bobby Charlton said to the television audience in the UAE.

Manchester unveils plan for Olympic Centre

MANCHESTER, England, March 14, (UPI): Manchester today unveiled plans for the 1,000 acre Olympic Centre that forms the heart of its bid for the 1996 centenary Olympic Games.

The centre, on the banks of the Manchester ship canal, would include a new 80,000 seat track and field stadium, aquatic centre and indoor arena, as well as housing 30,000 athletes, officials and media representatives.

Organisers expect some £500 million (\$800 million) would be spent on building facilities for the Games, with most of the money coming from private investors.

Bob Scott, chairman of the Manchester Olympic bid, admitted most of the major facilities for the Games were still on the drawing board.

"In terms of infrastructure we score very high marks," Scott said. "In terms of existing facilities we score low marks and that is why we want the Games. I don't believe it's a weakness."

As well as the Barton Cross Olympic Centre, organisers plan to develop a series of "modular arenas" in Greater Manchester, to house sports such as boxing and badminton.

Manchester is 188 miles northwest of London and boasts a population of 2.7 million people.

Plans for the soccer competition are guaranteed to appeal to anyone interested in the sport's history.

It would be held at the grounds of four of England's most famous professional clubs — Liverpool and Everton in Liverpool, 35 miles away from Manchester, and at Manchester United and Manchester City.

Table tennis would also be staged at the port city of Liverpool, with the rowing competition at a purpose-built regatta course in nearby Chester.

The yachting competition would be held off the Welsh coastal town of Pwllheli, where a separate mini-village would be built.

Cavaliers rout 76ers

Celtics outclass Hawks

RICHFIELD, Ohio, March 14, (AP): Mark Price scored 30 points, including a pair of fourth-quarter 3-point shots that stalled a Philadelphia comeback as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the 76ers 119-102 last night. The 76ers lost their third straight since they briefly held first place in the Atlantic Division last week but remained 11-2 games behind New York, which lost to Chicago.

Cleveland's Larry Nance scored 26 points, John Williams had 21 and Brad Daugherty 20. Charles Barkley led the sixers with 29 and Hersey Hawkins had 23.

Bulls 111, Knicks 108

Michael Jordan scored 34 points and Craig Hodges hit two key 3-pointers in the fourth quarter as Chicago won for the 12th time in its last 14 games and handed New York its fourth defeat in six home games after a 22-2 start.

Hodges' 3-pointers gave Chicago 91-85 and 104-94 leads, and the Bulls clamped down on Gerald Wilkins in the fourth quarter, holding him scoreless after he had 26 points through three periods.

Patrick Ewing led the Knicks with 29 points and Johnny Newman had 17. Scottie Pippen scored 17 and John Paxson 15 for Chicago.

Spurs 103, Pacers 102

Rod Strickland made two free throws with 2.6 seconds remaining as San Antonio dropped Indiana under .500 for the first time all season.

Lasalle Thompson gave Indiana its final lead when he tipped in a miss by Chuck Person with 2.9 seconds to play. San Antonio called a timeout and threw a halfcourt pass down low to Robinson but Vern Fleming fouled Strickland away from the ball.

David Robinson had 26 points, Terry Cummings 23 and Strickland and Willie Anderson 16 points apiece for the Spurs. Indiana's Reggie Miller led all scorers with 31.



Ewing (right) tries to stop Jordan.

points, Terry Cummings 23 and Strickland and Willie Anderson 16 points apiece for the Spurs. Indiana's Reggie Miller led all scorers with 31.

Celtics 112, Hawks 100

Kevin McHale, playing less than three quarters before injuring his right knee, scored 26 points for Boston. McHale scored nine points in the third period before he was hurt. He said he wouldn't know the extent of the injury until today.

Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins hyperextended his right knee late in the second quarter. He scored 10 points in the third quarter, but didn't play in the fourth quarter. He also said his status would be day-to-day.

Boston took the lead for good with a 10-0 run in the second quarter in which McHale scored six points, putting the Celtics on top 46-39.

Larry Bird had 22 points, Reggie Lewis 21 and Joe Kleine 18 for Boston. Kevin Willis and Webb each had 19 for the Hawks.

Kings 121, Heat 87

Wayman Tisdale scored 23 points, Antoine Carr 21 and Rodney McCray 20 as Sacramento rolled up its biggest victory margin of the season. The margin was the second largest since the Kings moved to Sacramento from Kansas City five years ago. They crushed Miami 108-69 last April 10.

Glen Rice led Miami with 18 points while Tellis Frank added 17 as the heat lost their ninth straight road game.

Results

Cleveland	119	Philadelphia	102
San Antonio	103	Indiana	102
Chicago	111	New York	108
Boston	112	Atlanta	100
Denver	117	Houston	114
Phoenix	114	Utah	106
Portland Trail	142	Orlando	117
Sacramento	121	Miami	87

Olympic hero

LONDON, March 14, (UPI): Imran Sherwani, the two goal hero of Great Britain's Seoul Olympic hockey gold medal, said yesterday that he may come out of international retirement and bid for a place in the GB team for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

The 27-year-old left winger who scored the goal for his club Stourport which put English National League champion Southgate out of the Anglia Cup Sunday, said he was having second thoughts, and could make a surprise comeback for GB and England next year.



Gooch interviewed

Graham Gooch (centre), captain of the English cricket team touring the West Indies, is interviewed about the delays which are affecting the matches, hit by rain. (Reuter wirephoto) See Page 21.

Merle wins Cup race

KLOVSJO, Sweden, March 14, (AP): Carole Merle of France won the last women's World Cup Giant Slalom of the season today, beating Norwegian junior Julie Hansen by 35 hundredths of a second.

Merle won her fourth consecutive World Cup race in a combined time of 2 minutes, 13.04 seconds.

Hansen, a 17-year-old skier in only her third cup competition, rallied from 10th to second after clocking the fastest time in the second run.

"It feels just great," grinned Hansen after one of the biggest surprises of the season. "I didn't make a mistake in the second run."

Hansen had a two-run total of 2:13.39. Third went to Mateja Svet of Yugoslavia in 2:13.71.

Defending overall champion Vreni Schneider of Switzerland, after missing gates in her last two slalom races, came back to finish fourth in 2:13.90.

Merle, 26, from Super Saunze in the southern French Alps, has been impressive in her last six races.

She was runnerup twice in a pair of downhill early last month at Veysonnaz, Switzerland, then captured two straight Super G races at Meribel, France.

Last Saturday, she made it three wins in a row by winning the GS at Stranda.

Merle, who injured her knee last August in Las Lenas, Argentina, didn't make her comeback until late January. She moved to sixth in the World Cup overall standings with 177 points.

Petra Kronberger, trying to become Austria's first overall champion since Annemarie Moser-Proell in 1979, lead the standings with 326 points. She was ninth today.

Team-mate Anja Wachter placed seventh and now has 294, cutting Kronberger's lead by two points.

Dinamo seek change of venue

BELGRADE, March 14, (UPI): Dinamo, Bucharest, winner of the European Cup Winners' Cup quarterfinal second leg tie against Partizan Belgrade next week, is seeking to change the venue from Titograd, a Partizan official said today.

"We received a letter from the Romanian Soccer Federation yesterday," said Partizan secretary Zoran Zecevic. "It said Dinamo would not play in Titograd because there are no security guarantees against fan violence."

The March 21 match is to be played in Titograd, between the European Football Union (UEFA) banned Partizan from last year's UEFA Cup after their fans' misbehavior during a second-round match.

Dinamo and Partizan fans clashed during and after the quarterfinal first leg in Bucharest, which Dinamo won 2-1, and both teams' coaches said afterwards they feared their fans' trouble in Titograd.

Soccer fans in Titograd, which is 300 km south-west of Belgrade, on the Adriatic coast and Albanian border, have a reputation for being unruly.

Dinamo coach Mircea Lucescu told "Zagreb's" daily "Sporta" Novosti: "It's good that Dinamo has no money to travel to Titograd, otherwise we would have lost the two legs."

Partizan coach Vasa Stokich said last week special police would be present at Titograd's 24,000 capacity stadium to prevent any trouble.

"We have done everything to make the match safe," Zecevic said. "We guarantee their security."

Bhutto Trophy

EVERGREEN cricketers, who under the stewardship of Asad Baig have lifted two trophies at EPI Ground this year, are set to face Lanka CCL in the much-awaited final of Bhutto Memorial Trophy.

Following is the expected squad for Evergreen cricketers: Asad Baig (captain), Sadat, Ajmal Raza, Shehzad, Shahid, Maqsood, Jamil Khan, Raza, Chandray, Anwar, Maqsood, Jamil, Maqsood, Raza.

It is expected the crowd will enjoy good cricket as both the teams are well balanced and have excellent records to their credit.

The trophy has been sponsored by People's Club, Kwa and organised by GCL.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Nice Open

PARIS, March 14, (UPI): John McEnroe and Yannick Noah will be the top seeds for the \$260,000 Nice Open to be held in southern France from April 14-22, organisers announced yesterday. The tournament, an important prelude to the French Open, will include four top 20 players, including Argentine Alberto Mancini, ranked 14th in the ATP tour, and defending titleholder Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union, ranked 20th. McEnroe is ranked No. 6 in the world and Noah is the current No. 12.

Cycle race

LONDON, March 14, (UPI): This year's £44,000 (\$70,500) Kellogg's professional cycle race will start July 31 at Brighton for the first time and end Aug 5 at Manchester over a 683-mile (1,100 kilometres) route, the longest in the six-year history of the race, it was announced yesterday.

British champion

LONDON, March 14, (UPI): Billy Hardy, the British heavyweight boxing champion yesterday rejected allegations from his manager Dennis Mancini that he has emigrated to South Africa. But 25-year-old Hardy who is training in Johannesburg, South Africa, where his trainer Richard Smith is based, for a fight in his native Sunderland April 24, said: "Nothing is further from the truth and it is a load of rubbish as far as I am concerned."

World record

HEERENVEEN, Netherlands, March 14, (AP): Johann-Olav Koss of Norway set a world record in the 3,000-metre speedskating event yesterday, racing the distance in 3:57.52. Koss broke by 1.75 seconds the 3:59.27 record set in 1987 by Leo Visser of the Netherlands, and by 0.08 seconds the 3:58.00 record clocked minutes earlier yesterday by Ben van der Burg, also of the Netherlands.

Ida football

FXTURES of the Ida Memorial football tournament to be played tomorrow: 07.00am Al Orham vs Goa Cultural Association (Ground "A") 07.00am Tivim vs Nasa (Ground "B")



McEnroe: Top seeded for Nice Open

Badminton event

LONDON, March 14, (UPI): Indian Rajiv Bagga will create a piece of history by becoming the first deaf and dumb player to participate in the All-England Badminton Championship, which began today at Wembley arena in London. Umpires and line judges will be briefed to make exaggerated hand signals to aid the 22-year-old Bagga, whose first game will be against Claus Overbeck.

Table tennis

LONDON, March 14, (UPI): Bitter rivals North and South Korea today were drawn in the same first round group for the inaugural World Cup table tennis team competition to be played in Japan May 17-23.

Kribensis wins

CHELSTENHAM, England, March 14, (Reuters): Kribensis, owned by Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai, made up for a poor effort a year ago when he ran out a decisive winner of the champion hurdle on yesterday, the first day of the Cheltenham Jumping Festival. Jockey Richard Dunwoody, who partners Desert Orchid in Thursday's Gold Cup, held up the grey in the early stages but turning for home nothing in the 19-strong field was travelling better. On the uphill finish at the end of the two-mile (3.2-km race) Kribensis, the 95-40 second favourite, had three lengths to spare over 8-1 chance Nomadic Way, ridden by champion jockey Peter Scudamore.

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Published by: Dr. Al-Sayid

Editor-in-Chief

Abdullah Al-Jarrah

Editorial Office:

Airport Road, Shuwaikh

P.O. Box 2270

13023 Safat, Kuwait

Telex:

22332 KT

Telephone:

4812566 (main lines)

Advertising:

4812567